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NOVEMBER 2015

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HISTORY OF AMERICAN

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BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

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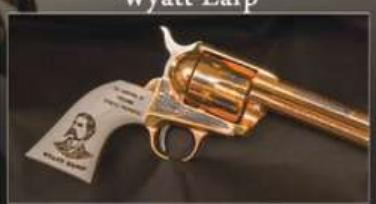

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HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

True West captures the spirit of the West with authenticity, personality and humor by providing a necessary link from our history to our present.

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The mining camp of Deadwood, Dakota Territory, as it probably looked when James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok arrived in 1876. Find this and more historical photography on our "Western History" board.

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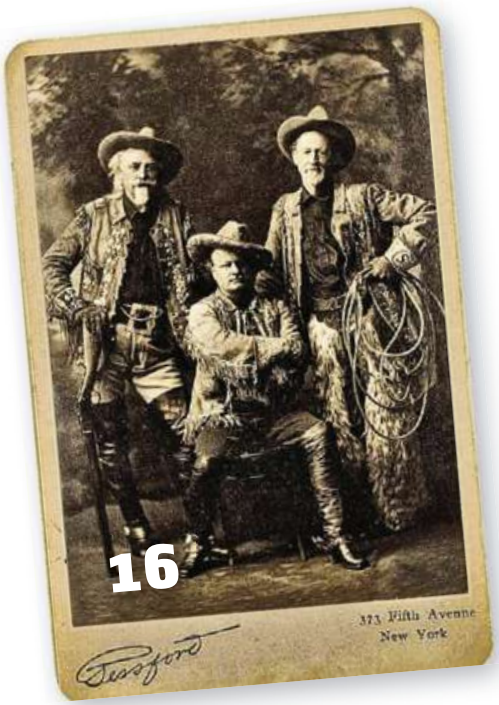
Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell to see this and more of the Daily Whipouts (search for "August 27, 2015).

Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com

Join the Conversation

"I have a letter from a great-grandfather, dated 1862, who was in 108th NY, during Civil War, saying how he and unit "were playing a new game called baseball...and he was called the "catcher."

– Dan Cook of Lewiston, Michigan



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MISTAKEN IDENTITY

In my June 2015 *Ask the Marshall*, I answered a question regarding the 1980 movie *Tom Horn*, which depicts a fight between the famous shootist and the boxer "Gentleman Jim" Corbett. In real life, that boxing match never happened.

Then I heard from reader Guy Power of San Jose, California: "I am betting dollars to doughnuts the screenwriters of the movie *Tom Horn* heard a story about Horn getting beat up by 'Gentleman Jim' Corbett in a bar fight and put it (anachronistically and inaccurately) in the movie. It was a true event that occurred in Denver, Colorado, on Monday, September 30, 1901—the brawl landed Horn in the hospital for three weeks, and he was believed to be near death. The problem with the story is that it was a different Corbett. According to Larry D. Ball's *Tom Horn in Life and Legend*, Horn took on a man named John Corbett, the brother of nationally-known featherweight boxer Young Corbett."

According to the book, a drunken Horn opened the ball by throwing a punch at the smallest guy around—John Corbett. He missed. Then Young Corbett's manager, Jack McKenna, beat Horn with a cane, breaking his jaw in two places.

Horn, by the way, may have had a reputation as a real hard case, but he was lousy with his fists. He apparently was beaten up more than once.

Thanks, Guy, for providing the "rest of the story." Our readers know their stuff!

Marshall Trimble

Born William J. Rothwell, the one-time world featherweight champion took the name Young Corbett II in honor of world heavyweight champion "Gentleman Jim" Corbett. When Tom Horn got into a fight with Young's brother, John, in 1901, the press mistakenly identified the other man as "Gentleman Jim." Young is shown above getting punched by Abe Attell, who claimed the throne in 1904.

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Ike's Country Roads

I'd like to add my two cents to the September 2015 *Shooting Back* letter, "Country Roads." In 1919, the U.S. Army organized a convoy of military vehicles and equipment to cross the U.S. from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco, California. For the most part, this Transcontinental Motor Convoy followed the route of the Lincoln Highway. Future U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was involved in the planning of the convoy and participated minimally in its travels across the country. Among the reasons for the convoy was the "exploration" and "initiation" of a transcontinental highway system, not only for civilian motor transportation, but also for military motor transportation. So, I'm sure Eisenhower realized how appalling America's road systems were as early as 1919.

Dave Steinert
Budd Lake, New Jersey

Ooops!

In True Western Towns *(October 2015), we attributed a giant sculpture of spurs as being located at the Flying E Ranch in Wickenburg, Arizona, when the sculpture actually greets guests and visitors to Trilogy at Wickenburg Ranch.*

SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

In *Western Books* (September 2015), John Farkis presented the popular concept that *The Searchers* book and movie were based upon the 1836 Comanche abduction of Cynthia Ann Parker. Published articles I've read stated that the movie was based on the 1864 Elm Creek raid in Young County, Texas.

Jerry H. Wilson
Manassas, Virginia

John Farkis based his conclusion off of Glenn Frankel's well-documented The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend*: "There is an ongoing and perhaps irresolvable conflict among aficionados of* The Searchers *over the true origins of the novel. Some insist Alan LeMay was inspired by the story of Brit Johnson, a black teamster who ransomed his abducted wife and children from Comanches in 1865. Others point to the story of Millie Durgan, captured as a baby by Kiowas in 1864. LeMay's papers at UCLA are incomplete and inconclusive. But the parallels between the original story of Cynthia Ann Parker and the book…are undeniable."*

DUE RECOGNITION

True West worked directly with artist Charles Fritz on the September 2015 cover story, "Fighting to Cross an Unknown America." We apologize for failing to also give artwork credit to the family of noted Western art collector Tim Peterson, who loaned all 100 of Fritz's Lewis and Clark paintings, as well as bronze sculptures by other artists, for the fantastic Lewis and Clark exhibit at Scottsdale's Museum of the West. The exhibit is available for viewing through October 31, 2016.

PERSISTENT PAYNE

The editors stated we were uncertain where David Payne stood when *True West* published this photograph as the May 2015 *Opening Shot*. In August 2015, we published a letter by David A. Nason of Phoenix, Arizona, who wrote that Payne looked to be the man with the axe (fifth from left). Robert G. McCubbin, our publisher emeritus, has settled the matter once and for all. In Stan Hoig's *David L. Payne: The Oklahoma Boomer*, the caption for this photograph states: "Payne leans on an axe at a camp on the way from Fort Reno to Kansas." Thank you, Mr. Nason, for helping us get this identification correct.

30-30 Love

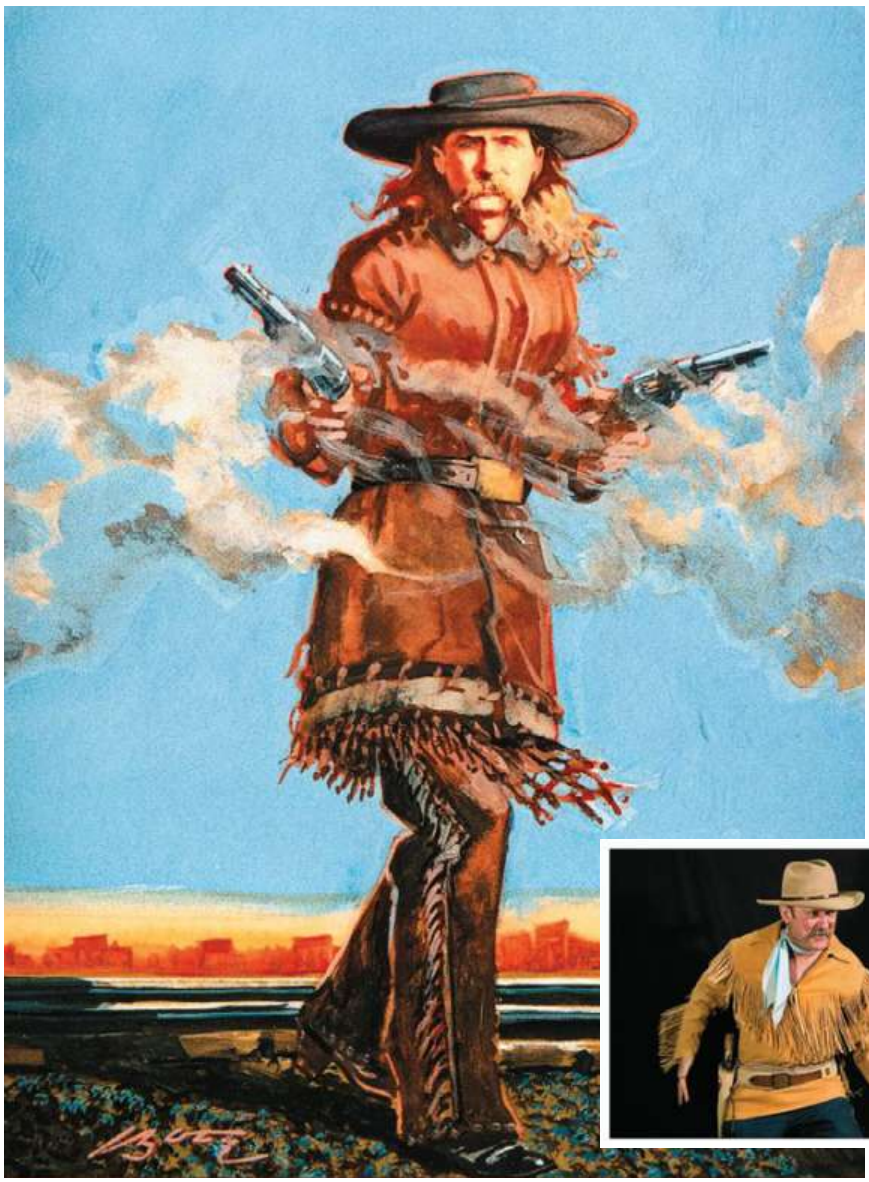
Soldiers at play and all the guns that saved the day.

A U.S. Army wife in the Old West era often had as rough a life as her husband. When newlywed Martha Summerhayes's husband was transferred to Arizona in 1874, Arizona was a danger zone like Afghanistan has been for troops today.

Martha endured a long and arduous trip from her husband's previous post in Wyoming to San Francisco via the railroad, down the California Coast by packet, then to Mexico's Cabo San Lucas to Guaymas, and on to Yuma, Arizona, and Fort Mojave via steamboat, overland to Prescott's Fort Whipple in a wagon that took them, finally, up and over the Mogollon Rim to the remote post of Fort Apache. After days of unpacking, she paid a visit to an officer's wife and discovered her playing tennis in the wilds of Arizona Territory! As John Langellier makes clear in his wonderful feature, "Soldiers at Play," pioneers made do with some pretty exotic amenities (p. 30).

Meanwhile, our intrepid firearms editor, Phil Spangenberger, serves up "a double-deuce of firearms and deadly shootists" who won the West (p. 72). We've all heard the cliché that the Colt Single Action Army "won the West." Phil argues persuasively that the West was truly won by "an assortment of rifles, shotguns and handguns, in the hands of a diverse and colorful crowd of men and women, that brought both violence and law and order to our Western territories."

For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily blog at TWMag.com



Wild Bill Hickok is the ideal prototype of the Western gunfighter, and he preferred two 1851 Colt Navy Revolvers (see his gunfight on p. 42). This painting of mine was once owned by Mike and Sharon Guli of Bellvue, Colorado; the same Mike who replicated for me the shirt the Range Rider wore in the classic 1950s TV series. The shirt survives (inset), but the painting was destroyed in the 2012 High Park Fire. In my painting, I tried to capture the pathos of Hickok's tragic side. In the end, he was not a happy camper.

– PHOTO COURTESY OF AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –

Quotes

"Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, can not long retain it."

–Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. president

"When you listen, you learn. You absorb like a sponge—and your life becomes so much better than when you are just trying to be listened to all the time."

– Steven Spielberg, film director

"Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime."

– Aristotle, Greek philosopher

"Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live."

– Oscar Wilde, Irish author

"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature.... Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing."

– Helen Keller, political activist

"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."

– Diogenes Laërtius, Greek biographer

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO

"Those who believe in telekinetics, raise my hand."

–Kurt Vonnegut, American author

"I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to."

– Elvis Presley, the king of Rock'n'Roll

Old Vaquero Saying

"Many a good man has been found under a shabby hat."

BY MARK BOARDMAN

A Tale of Kit Carson's "Nephew"

Forget everything you've heard about Kansas lawman Tom Carson.

Tom Carson hit these dusty streets of Abilene, Kansas, in 1871, as a lawman under Marshal Wild Bill Hickok. The following year, Tom was locked up in jail.

ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

After Kit Carson died on May 23, 1868, his alleged nephew Tom showed up. That his connection was not acknowledged when Kit was alive lends even more suspicion to Tom's claim to be family.

The tale of Tom Carson fits the bill of Old West fabrications that have been recorded as fact.

Storytellers claimed Tom was the nephew of legendary mountain man Kit Carson—who could not comment on the relationship, as Tom showed up three years after Kit died. In June 1871, the Kansas cowtown of Abilene hired Tom as a lawman who reported to James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, the marshal in charge of patrolling the town's brothels. Within a week, Tom got in trouble—for leveling a shotgun at a citizen.

Tom wore the badge after notorious gunfighter John Wesley Hardin hit town that spring after a Texas cattle drive. The two had some dustups. The first occurred in a saloon where Tom drew down on one of Hardin's friends; Hardin pulled a gun on Tom, who wisely retreated.

When Hardin suddenly left Abilene after killing a man (the legendary "shot a man in his sleep" story), Tom and another officer went after him. Hardin ambushed them. Fortunately for the lawmen, the gunman didn't fire; he sent them back to Abilene.

> Maybe Tom spread the rumor to get free drinks.

In August, Tom headed 66 miles south to Newton. He arrived a few days after five men were killed during the Gunfight at Hide Park. Tom was hired as marshal, making the town's Texas cowboys unhappy because of Tom's perceived bias toward folks from the Lone Star State.

On September 23, Tom and another lawman disarmed a drunken Texas cowboy, who later grabbed a derringer and killed Tom's companion. Tom wasn't there when his fellow officer was shot.

With order in Newton restored, Tom returned to Abilene and was rehired as lawman on November 4. Roughly two weeks later, he shot bartender John Man in the hip—in an unprovoked attack. Town officials fired Tom and fellow officer Brocky Jack Norton on November 27.

In late January 1872, Tom shot and wounded Norton during a dispute. Tom was jailed, but he and three others escaped on February 18. Tom became a lawman again, and he was killed in the line of duty.

That's the legend. Here's what we know:

No evidence supports Tom being related to Kit Carson, Johnny Carson, Carson Daly or the Nevada town of Carson City. We don't even know why the story of his tie to Kit got started—maybe Tom spread the rumor to get free drinks.

Tom was a policeman under Hickok in Abilene. But Tom never had tough interactions with Hardin, says Hardin biographers Norman Wayne Brown and Chuck Parsons.

Tom did go to Newton in August, but as a temporary constable, not as marshal. He did shoot bartender John Man. And he and three hard cases did escape jail. After that, though, Tom disappeared. Nothing confirms he became a lawman again, nor that he valiantly gave his life on the job.

Bottom line, Tom led a busy nine months in Kansas. The rest of his story seems to be legends and lies.

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

No School Left Behind

Charlotte Caldwell and the saviors she has inspired continue to succeed in their efforts to save Montana's one-room schoolhouses.

"These schoolhouses really tell the story of the American spirit."

Montana has so many rural schoolhouses because pioneer families decided no child should ride a horse or walk farther than five miles to attend school, says Charlotte Caldwell, who, after taking the "before" photo of Hill School (far left) near Chester, Montana, received a $5,000 grant to rehabilitate the circa 1900 schoolhouse ("after" photo is left).

– BEFORE BY CHARLOTTE CALDWELL; AFTER BY JANICE HENDRICKSON –

When Charlotte Caldwell looked out from her ranch in Shields Valley a dozen years ago, she observed, less than "a mile as the crow flies," an old one-room schoolhouse "in dire need." Of all the ramshackle buildings she had seen throughout Montana, she could do something about this one.

She and her husband, Jeffrey Schutz, focused on the exterior of the circa 1910 Sumner School. The couple scraped and painted, replaced windows and cleaned up the land. Another neighbor repaired the roof. An important piece of Montana history had been saved for another day.

This "awakening" inspired Caldwell to write, photograph and publish *Visions and Voices: Montana's One-Room Schoolhouses*. Her book represented the State of Montana at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.

While researching her book, Caldwell learned that Montana once had 2,793 rural one-room schoolhouses throughout its 56 counties—a testament to the importance of education for late 1800s pioneering ranchers and farmers. Each building had once been the "community center" of their area, she says, doubling as a post office, a dance hall, a gathering place, maybe a church on Sundays.

Most were abandoned after WWI, while some were forgotten by their educational communities. Not all county school superintendents and museums knew about the schoolhouses. In those cases, Caldwell interviewed old-timers to learn what these schoolhouses had meant to the community. "These people either had gone to one of these schools or taught there, or knew someone who did," she says.

She ended up finding at least one one-room schoolhouse still standing in each of the 56 counties—and many in much more dire need than the one in her valley. About 60 one-room schoolhouses are still open.

Her 2012 book shined such a spotlight on the importance of saving this heritage that, the following year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the rural schoolhouses of Montana as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places to save.

Caldwell is certainly doing her part as a savior. All of the proceeds from her book provide grants to the Preserve Montana Fund for the stabilization of the state's rural schoolhouses. "In the last three years, we've helped 15 schools with grants totaling $66,210," says Gena Ashmore, of the Montana History Foundation and grants manager for the project.

Schools compete for the $500 to $5,000 grants, and the local community must put up a 25 percent match. "In Lewistown, an elderly gentlemen asked for $750 to paint the Cottonwood School that operated from 1895 to 1995," Ashmore says. "A $3,000 grant repaired the school where our former governor, Tim Babcock, went through the eighth grade."

The preservation-minded folks behind these projects remind Caldwell of the kind people she met as she photographed schoolhouses throughout Montana. "My fascination came with the people's stories of homesteading days and the last frontier," she says. "These schoolhouses really tell the story of the American spirit."

Arizona's Journalist of the Year, **Jana Bommersbach** has won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She also cowrote and appeared on the Emmy-winning *Outrageous Arizona* and has written two true crime books, a children's book and the historical novel *Cattle Kate*.

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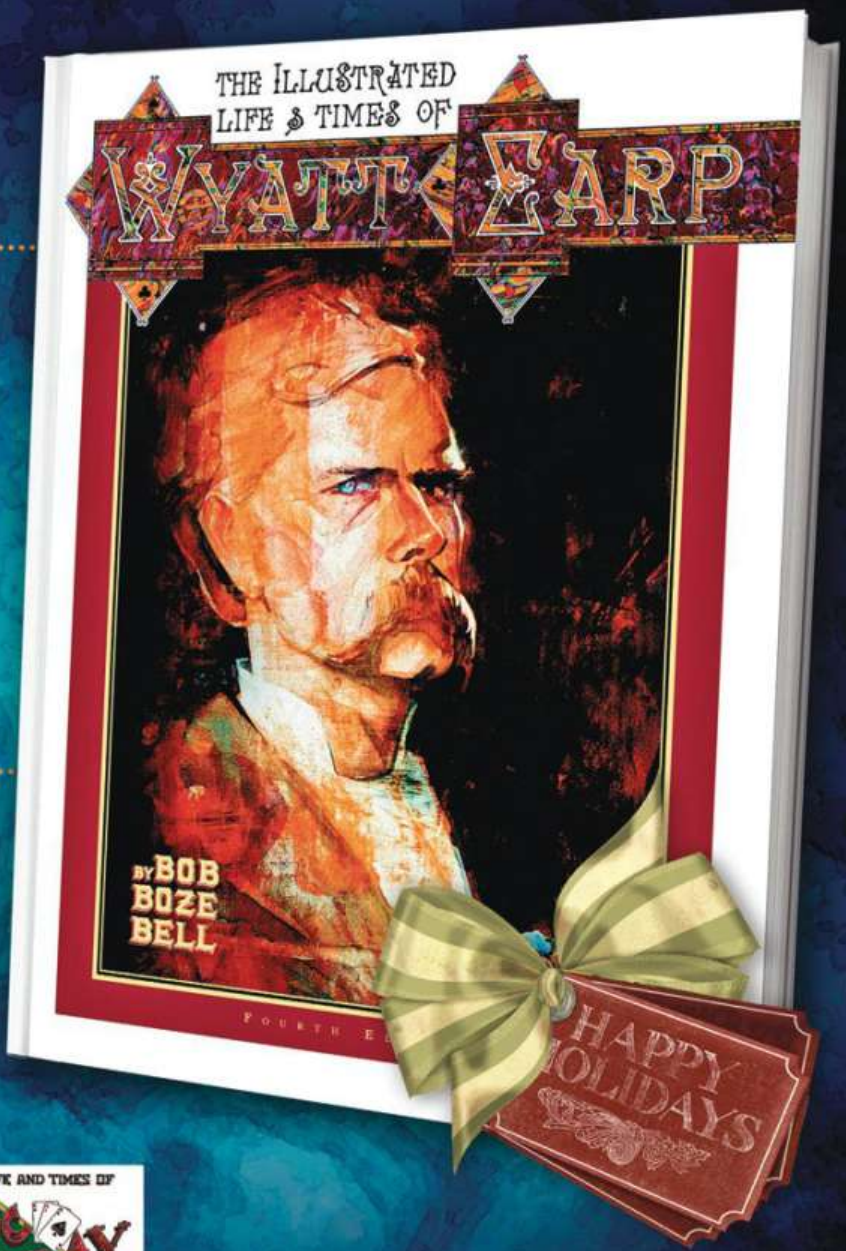

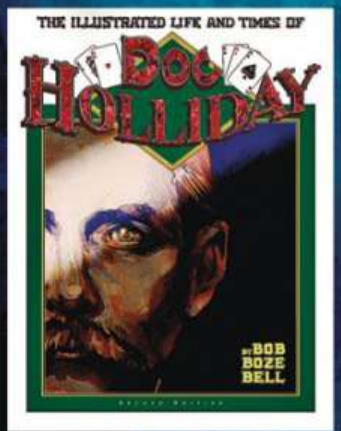

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TRUE WEST

BY MEGHAN SAAR

Rifle and Pen

The top lot goes to a painting of an adventurer journalist who recorded some of the first news of the frontier West.

This 1910 watercolor by Charles M. Russell was published in one of the last book projects the cowboy artist illustrated; $950,000.

"Pard" made perfect sense as a nickname for Robert Strahorn.

After his newspaper work as the first civilian correspondent attached to Gen. George Crook, reporting on the Great Sioux War of 1876, Robert was recruited by Jay Gould, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, to create the railroad's publicity department and report on the resources of the frontier West. Hired within a week of his marriage to Carrie "Dell" Green, Robert insisted that his bride be allowed to accompany him on all trips throughout the country. In October 1877, the newlyweds set off on their "stage-coach honeymoon."

The partner Dell followed into an "unknown future" was best described by Crook: "…Bob was every inch a soldier, always the first man to the front when the battle call was on, where he could get his news in the most reliable way, and he never failed to work his rifle as well as his pen."

Dell wrote a book published in 1911 about those early years "pioneering from the Missouri to the Pacific and from Alaska to Mexico." Called *Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage*, her memoir featured 17 watercolors and 68 pen-and-inks by Montana's cowboy artist Charles M. Russell.

> "...he never failed to work his rifle as well as his pen."

Hers would be among Russell's last book commissions. The following year, the artist would complete *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross's Hole* for the Montana Capitol, for which he was paid $5,000, so he began spending more of his time on his paintings. He did make exceptions to illustrate books by close friends, such as Walter Cooper, Frank B. Linderman and B.M. Bower.

In her book, Dell recorded a memory of traveling to Green River station in Wyoming. Pard pointed out a landmark from a 1,200-mile horseback ride he had made from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Denver, Colorado. While fording a river, his partner, Abbott, drowned. Not wanting to ride to Denver alone, Pard sought out another companion. Having heard that Scotchman Alex Cochrane had left for Salt Lake City, Pard caught up to him. One morning, they awoke at their camp surrounded by about 20 Indians who seemed intent on taking their horses.

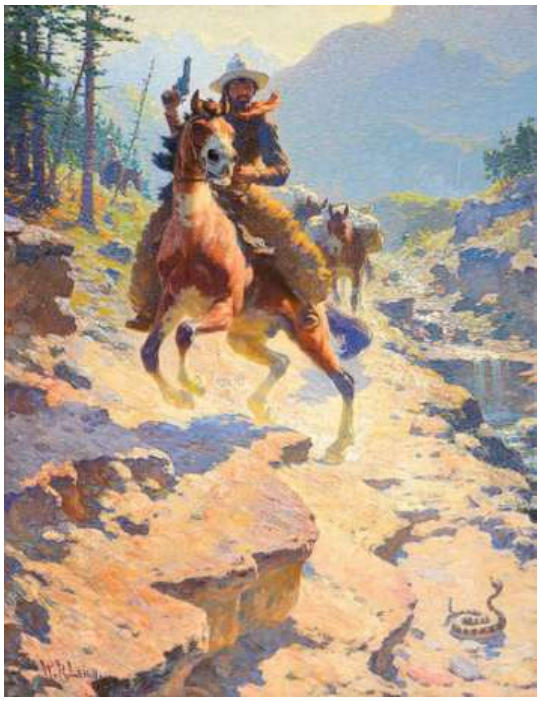
The artwork that sold as the top lot, for a $950,000 bid at Coeur d'Alene Art Auction on July 25, illustrates what happened next: "As Cochrane and Pard leaped into their saddles, the former, being immediately opposite the Indian who was mounted upon the colt, put the spurs into his mare, and at the same instant pulled his revolver from its usual resting-place just inside his vest, and shot the Indian."

After a long chase, the first safe rendezvous Pard and Cochrane found was the little wooded island that Pard was pointing out to his wife. The men luckily made it to Denver without any further serious mishaps.

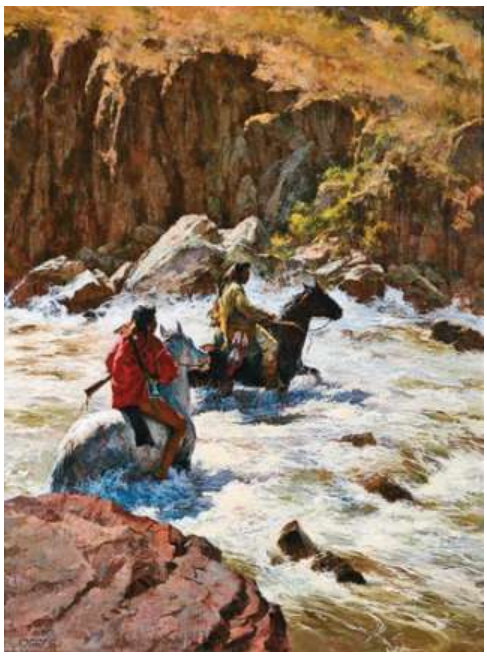
Pard lives on in this early Russell watercolor, originally purchased directly from the Strahorns after they made their permanent home in Spokane, Washington, in 1898.

Collectors earned more than $23 million on artworks sold at the auction.

(All images courtesy Coeur d'Alene Art Auction)



William R. Leigh was among the artists who traveled to the West to view their material firsthand. His *Right of Way* oil hammered for $600,000.



Howard Terpning's 1996 oil *Bad Medicine Crossing* portrays two Crows pushing through a dangerous rocky riverbed where they could perish and leave their unrestful spirits, "bad medicine," behind; $550,000.

John Clymer's 1972 *Whisky Whisky* oil portrays fur trappers whooping into an 1820s Green River Rendezvous; $450,000.

Walter Ufer, who found fame as a member of New Mexico's Taos Society of Artists, deftly painted *The Watcher;* $400,000.

Another of Frank Tenney Johnson's distinctive nocturnes, *Night Time in Wyoming,* sold for a $350,000 bid.

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A founding member and first president of the Taos Society of Artists, Eanger Irving Couse painted *Indian Examining a Blanket* in 1922; $360,000.

THE BUFFALO

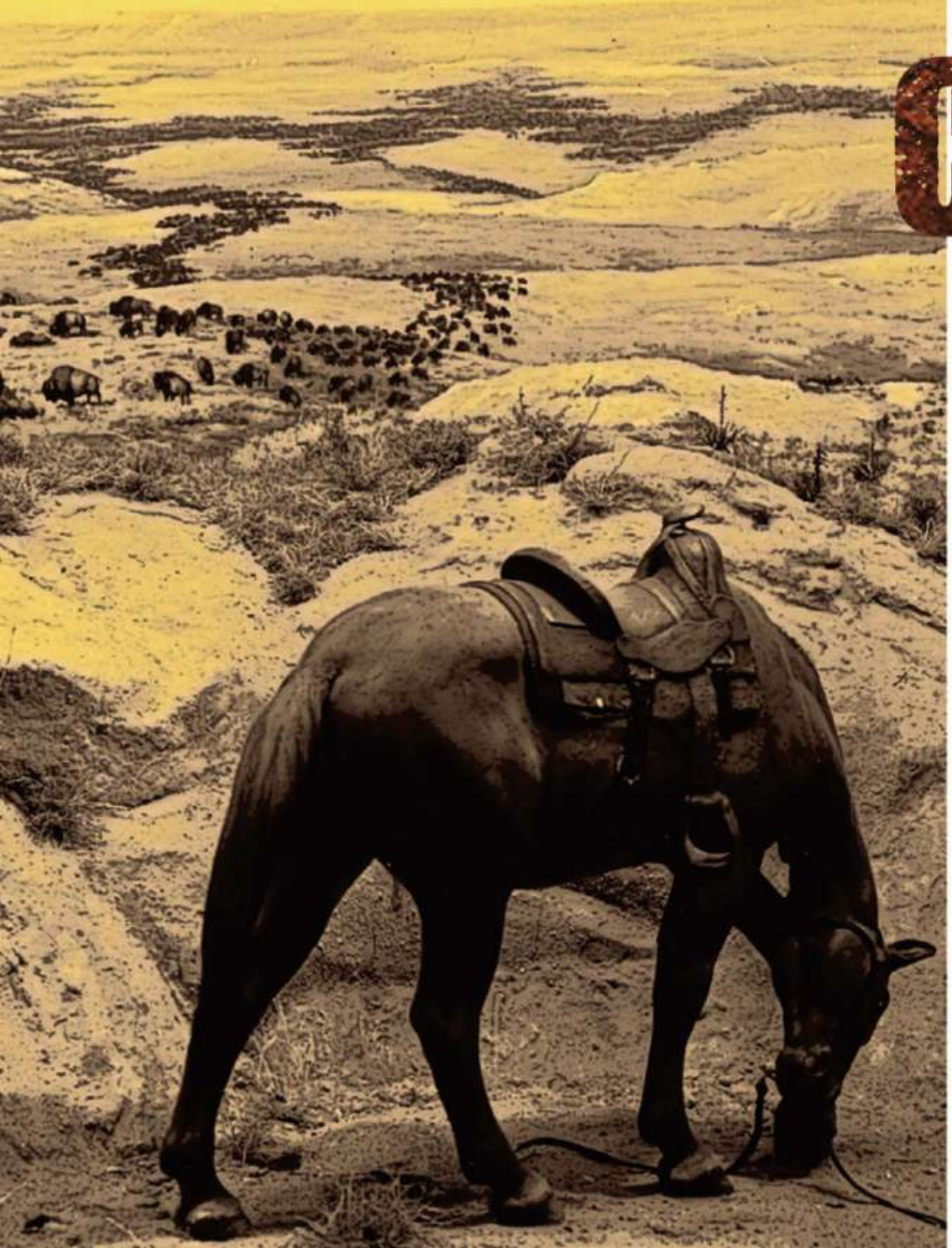
Tens of millions of buffalo once roamed freely upon the Great Plains in the mid-19th century, before the railroad came to the frontier West. This scene illustrates a cowboy aiming his rifle at a herd of hundreds. By the end of the 19th century, roughly 300 buffalo were left in the wild. Conservation efforts over the years have allowed the species to rebound to about 400,000 in North America today.

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, SCOTTS BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT –

BY MIKE COPPOCK

HUNTERS' WAR

Dying buffalo herds drove a stake into the heart of Comanches who rained their revenge on Pat Garrett, Charles "Buffalo" Jones and an army of buffalo hunters.

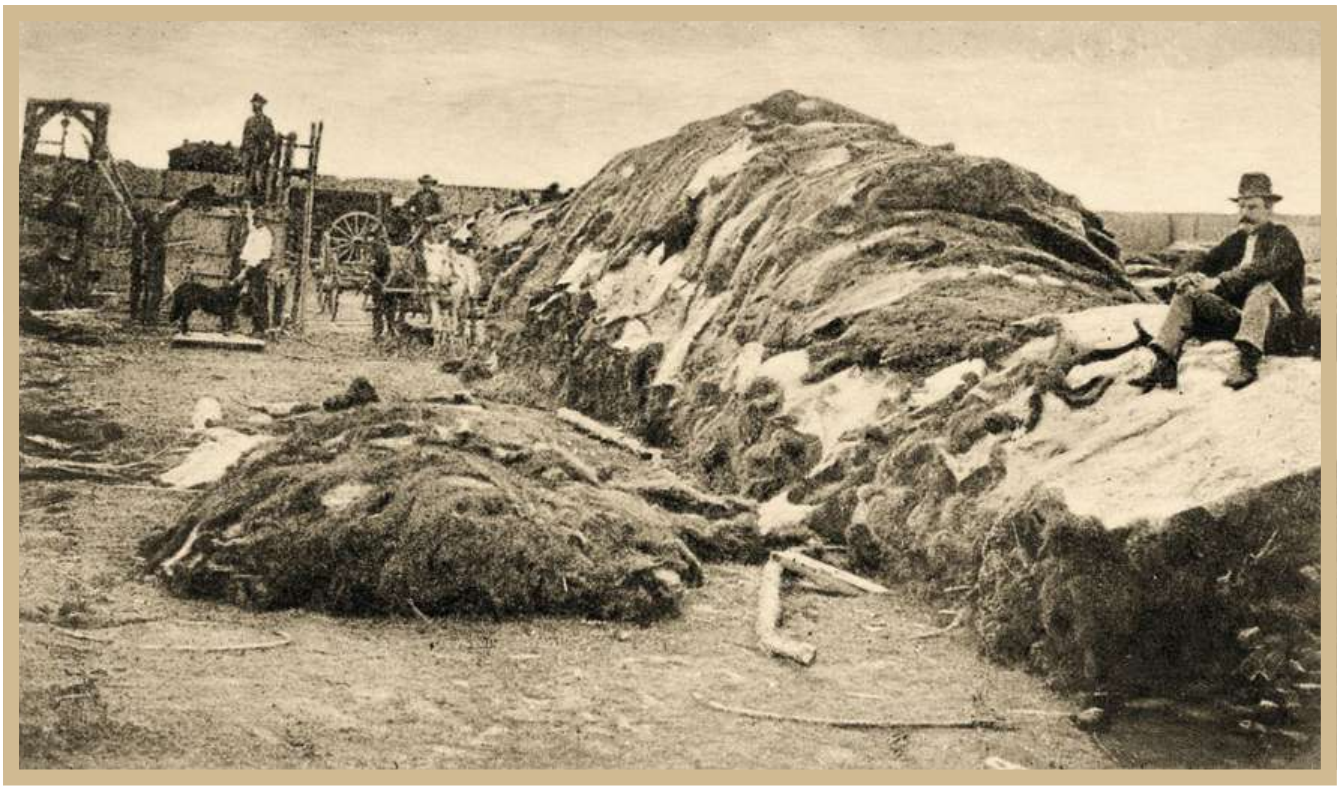


Comanche Chief Black Horse stared out across the High Plains of West Texas in December 1876 in disbelief. The grasslands before him looked like the floor of a slaughterhouse. Painted over the grass and dirt were large dark streaks of blood leading away from the bloating carcasses of hundreds of bison.

Cheyennes had earlier returned to the Darlington Agency in Oklahoma with tales of whole herds of buffalo killed off to the north, resulting in rioting at the agency that had to be put down by U.S. troops. The Comanches scoffed at their stories. To them, the Cheyennes were panicking over nothing.

But as promised government beef rations had been shorted on the Fort Sill reservation, due to budget cuts, Black Horse obtained permission to take his followers out onto the Staked Plains for a buffalo hunt. Some 170 followed him to West Texas, including white captive Herman Lehmann, who had been with the Comanche for less than a year after escaping from the Apaches.

Witnessing firsthand a mass slaughter that matched the descriptions of the plagued herds in Kansas, Black Horse could tell multiple parties of whites had been



In 1878, Charles Rath sat on 40,000 buffalo hides in the hide yard of the store he owned with Robert M. Wright in Dodge City, Kansas. Wright said of Rath, "He bought and sold more than a million of buffalo hides, and tens of thousands of buffalo robes, and hundreds of cars of buffalo meat, both dried and fresh, besides several car loads of buffalo tongues."

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION –

responsible, just by the different methods used for the slaughter. Some left the head on the carcass, while skinning the animal; others had cut the head off first before skinning. Now and then, the Comanches found a rod or stake driven through the neck of a bison, whose hide had been cut around the horns, belly and legs. The skin was then detached by using horses to quickly pull the hide right off the carcass. A few of the majestic beasts had their tongues ripped out. What remained of the meat was left to rot.

For the moment, plenty of buffalo still roamed the southern edge of the Staked Plains, but the wanton slaughter angered the Comanche band so much that they refused to return to the reservation. They became determined to reap revenge on the white hunters.

The Killing of a Species

Both U.S. Army policy in killing off the buffalo herds, so as to deny warring tribes a food source, and the national depression of 1873 resulted in a relentless extermination of the majestic creatures.

On Christmas Day in 1874, two skinners and 20-year-old Joe McCombs embarked on the first hide expedition into the south end of the Staked Plains from Fort Griffin. Within two months, they skinned 700 bison. Moving to a new location, McCombs took 1,300 more hides. All the while, McCombs reported he and his skinners saw no one else.

Word circulated that the southern end of the Staked Plains were empty, save for thousands of buffalo for the taking. About a dozen outfits plunged into the Staked Plains from Fort Griffin, including the Mooar brothers. J. Wright Mooar claimed he killed 96 bison in one stand, bested only by Frank Collinson, with 121 bison killed in a stand just north of today's Childress. Robert Cypret Patrack wrote about being part of a crew of 16—two hunters, one cook and 10 skinners, with two men hauling hides and one loading ammunition.

> "I had killed buffalo by the thousands... and had vowed someday to... atone for my cussedness."

Feeling crowded at Fort Griffin, German-born Charles Rath moved 50 miles west to set up his outfitter post along the Brazos River in 1875, which he called Rath City. Some 80 hunters followed him to the killing grounds, including future lawman Pat Garrett. The Fort Worth newspaper carried daily stock quotes for hides direct from the Galveston exchange. The hide business in the southern section exceeded one million dollars in 1877.

With bison on their last legs in Kansas, the hunting grounds attracted hunters like a magnet. Among them was frontiersman Charles "Buffalo" Jones. Though Jones complained about the slaughter, the money

was too good for him to turn his back on, as he had tw small boys to feed.

Jones arrived in Fort Griffin, finding the easy money that had brought him to West Texas also brought in a rough criminal element. The character of men working out of Rath City was even worse.

Charles "Buffalo" Jones gained notoriety when Zane Grey told his story in his first Western, 1908's *The Last of the Plainsmen,* published four years before his bestselling novel *Riders of the Purple Sage*. Jones is shown here, at far right, with (from left) Wild West showmen Buffalo Bill Cody and Pawnee Bill.

– COURTESY COWAN'S AUCTIONS, JANUARY 31, 2014, DESCENDED FROM FAMILY OF BUFFALO BILL CODY –

Tortured to Death

Chief Black Horse was watching too. Furious, he broke his agreement on returning to the reservation and took his people into Pocket Canyon for the winte When the weather eased up in February 1877, Black Hors and his Comanches struck.

Marshall Sewall, who had set up his stand below Caprock near the head of Salt Fork, killed 21 bison with his new Sharps Creedmoor .45 rifle. When Sewall headed to his camp, the Comanches attacked. Three skinners and another hunter hid out while Sewall screamed from the torture. They found him with two scalp locks taken. His body was stretched out naked, with gashes cut into his temples and one into his navel. The legs of his rifle's tripod stood in the three gashes. The four men hurried to Rath City for help.

Forty men rode back to Sewall's camp. They buried the buffalo hunter and set out to track the Comanche war party. When they caught up to Black Horse, a skirmish broke out. The posse wounded and captured Comanche Spotted Jack before they returned to Rath City.

The Comanches had also attacked Garrett's camp, driving off his horses. They did the same to Willis Glenn.

Hundreds of armed men, including Jones, Garrett and John R. Cook, gathered at Rath City from across the Staked Plains. The volunteers were quickly organized by former mountain man Smoky Hill Thompson, who Jones described as a white-haired, Kit Carson type. Thompson asked one group to hunt down the Comanches and the other to guard Rath City.

Out of those men, 125 agreed to fight. Most guarded the town, while 45 set out on the expedition. Thompson excused himself as too old to go.

Hank Campbell was elected commander of the punitive expedition, while José Tafoya, a former Comanchero from New Mexico, agreed to guide the crew. He claimed he had guided Col. Ranald Mackenzie's troops during the Battle of Palo Duro Canyon against the Comanches on September 28, 1874.

Of the 45 men, 20 did not have mounts, so Capt. Jim White obtained two wagons—one for hauling the men, and the other to haul feed and whisky.

The captain soon discovered Tafoya was taking the troops in the wrong direction. Two days out, White began bleeding from the lungs and turned back. Jim Smith was selected as the new captain. Smith led the men to where Sewall was killed; from there, Tafoya picked up the Comanches' trail.

Tafoya guided the volunteers west to the caprock's escarpment near today's town of Post. He told the hunters he believed Black Horse's band was heading for Yellow House Canyon, near present-day Lubbock. The immensity of the treeless Staked Plains, with its lack of landmarks, already bewildered the expedition. Jones, for one, thought they were more than 100 miles north of their actual position.

Quietly making their way to the mouth of the canyon, they found a sentry and killed him. Tafoya was sent ahead where he found Black Horse's camp.

Campbell decided to march through the night and surprise Black Horse at dawn. The men hid provisions and their wagons at the mouth of the canyon. On the night of March 17, 1877, Tafoya led his group to the north fork in the dark, instead of the south fork, the site of Black Horse's camp. He quickly corrected his mistake, backtracking into the south canyon.

Campbell split his 43 men into three groups; two mounted groups climbed the canyon rim, on both the north and south sides. The third group, on foot, advanced along the canyon floor to head into Black Horse's hideout. When within range for their pistols, the third party charged after dawn broke on March 18.

A contributor to the slaughter, Charles "Buffalo" Jones wears a buffalo coat, a heavy and super warm overcoat mainly worn on the frontier by stagecoach drivers and other folks who had to sit in the cold for extended periods.

– ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED –

Battle of Yellow House Canyon

Caught off guard, the Comanches ran out in a panic. Then they noticed the small size of the attacking force.

The warriors set themselves up defensively to defeat the hunters, while their women ran up the sides of the canyon and fired on the horsemen from above. Now the buffalo hunters were taken aback by the ferocity of the Comanche defense.

Joe Jackson was shot in the groin and dragged to safety, while other hunters dropped before Comanche gunfire. The small band of buffalo hunters gave ground to the advancing Indians, who, Tafoya now reported, made up not just Comanches, but also renegade Apaches. Black Horse's men fanned out into skirmish lines along the flanks of the canyon and lit the dried grass on fire for cover.

One Comanche mounted a white horse, shouting for a charge. From a distance of 300 yards, Jones and the others dropped the warrior.

"It's a ruse, boys!" Jones shouted, as reported in the biography *Lord of Beasts*. "Watch this flank! They're creeping down on us through the smoke."

Cook heard Jones and organized some hunters to repel the flanking move. But the men were too heavily outnumbered to stand their ground. By mid-afternoon, Campbell ordered a retreat for Buffalo Springs.

With Black Horse's warriors trailing behind, sensing a possible kill strike, Smith ordered his men to light a giant bonfire. This decoy allowed the small force of volunteers to escape south and then east. They set more fires to obscure their tracks.

Four days passed before the buffalo hunters returned to Rath City.

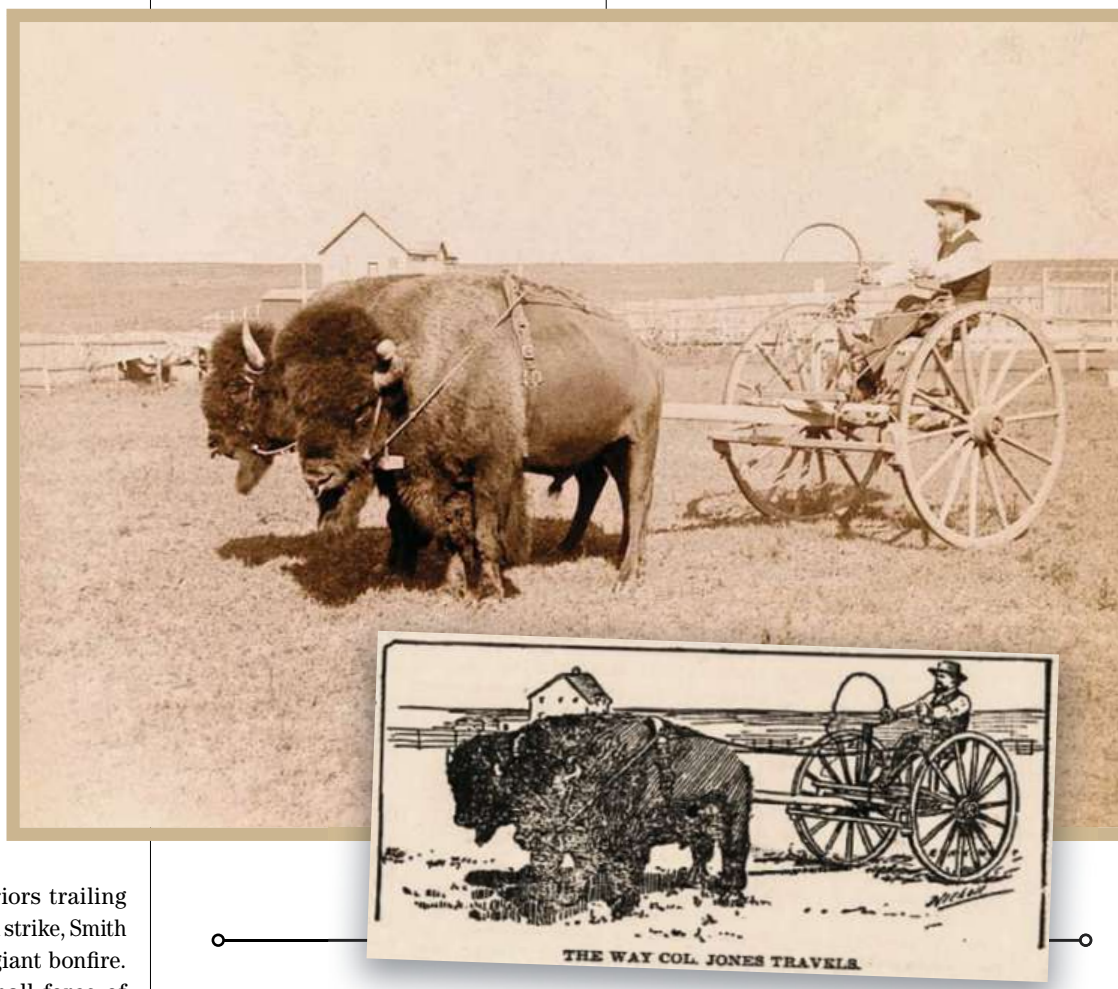
Lehmann was badly wounded, while Jackson died two months later from his groin wound. Causality figures from the engagement were all over the map. After interviewing Black Horse and others, the Army placed the Comanche dead at 35, with 22 wounded. As for the buffalo hunters, the Army gave no official tally. The numbers ranged from just four wounded to 12 killed and eight wounded.

The End of the Buffalo?

The fight emboldened Black Horse. His warriors ambushed and killed three more hunters, and destroyed several hunting camps. On May 1, fifty warriors raced through the street of Rath City, shooting, yelling and stealing as many horses as they could.

The 10th Cavalry was assigned to bring in Black Horse. After a sharp skirmish, most of the Comanche band returned to the reservation. The Battle of Yellow House Canyon turned out to be the last major Indian fight on the High Plains of Texas.

Within two years, the southern buffalo herd was decimated. McCombs spent from September 1878 to March 1879 on a hunt that yielded only 800 hides. Finding a herd of 50 was becoming a rarity.



Charles "Buffalo" Jones trained a pair of seven-year-old buffalos—which included "Lucky Knight," captured by Jones in May 1886—to submit to the yoke for ranch work. The above photo of this bizarre arrangement was illustrated (inset) in "The Way Col. Jones Travels," published in Kansas's *The Burlingame Enterprise* on March 8, 1900.

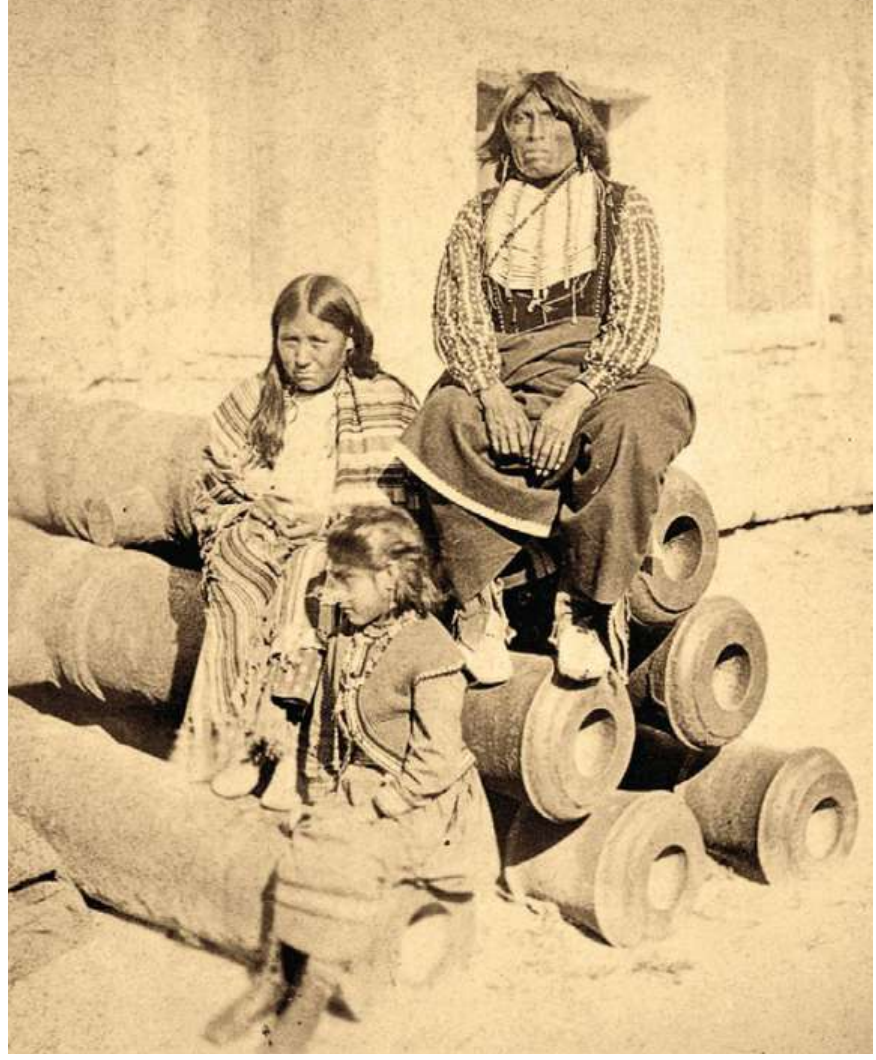
"I do not recollect having seen a buffalo on the range after my return from my last hunt," McCombs said. "There was no hunting after that."

Though Jones earned the nickname "Buffalo Jones" from his Staked Plains hunts, he spent the decades afterwards trying to keep the buffalo from going extinct.

"I had killed buffalo by the thousands for their skins," he wrote, "and had vowed someday to capture and domesticate enough to atone for my cussedness."

The buffalo herd Jones introduced at Yellowstone National Park, when he was appointed the first game warden in 1902, began the long road that ultimately lifted the buffalo away from the brink of extinction.

Mike Coppock is a published author of Alaskan history works. He currently resides in Enid, Oklahoma, and he teaches in Tuluksak, Alaska, part of the year.



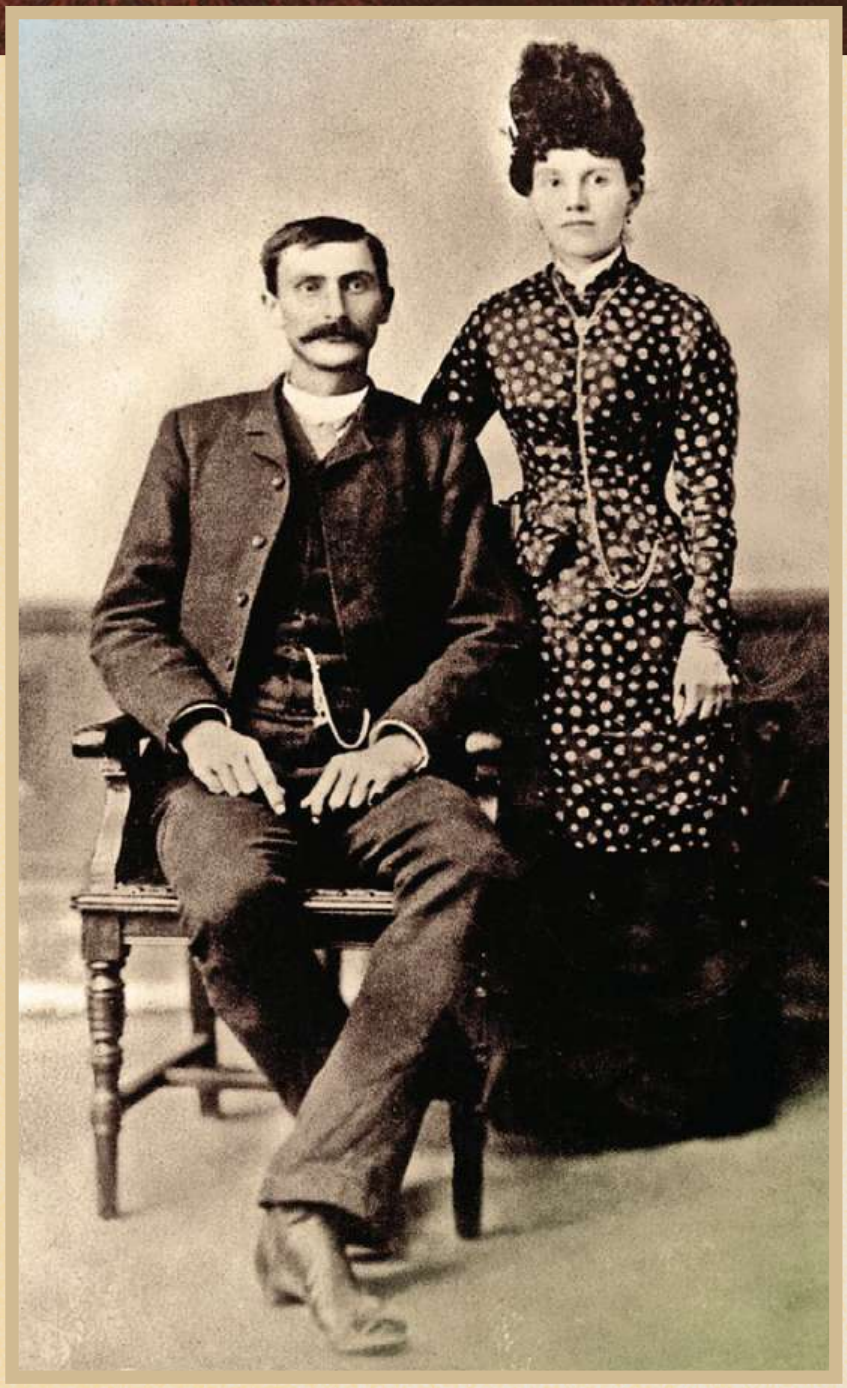
When Comanche Chief Black Horse rode out onto the Staked Plains in West Texas for a buffalo hunt in 1876, he was horrified by the wanton slaughter of buffalo. He sits here with his wife and child Akhah, when they were confined at Fort Marion in St. Augustine, Florida, around that time.

Plains Indians watched the wasteful killing of buffalo herds with dismay and desperation. The tribes that subsisted on buffalo meat, like this Arapaho camp in William Soule's 1870 photograph, lashed out as the life-sustaining beasts became scarcer with each passing month.

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION –

BY PRESTON LEWIS

PAT GARRETT'S BUFFALO HUNT ADVENTURE



Pat Garrett's three winters on the buffalo range left him "well wedded to frontier life," as author Emerson Hough put it. We do not have a family-authenticated photograph of Garrett during that time; the earliest one (above) shows him with second wife Apolinaria (Gutierrez) in Anton, Chico, on their wedding day on January 14, 1880.

– COURTESY LEON C. METZ COLLECTION –

Prior to his rendezvous with destiny, Pat Garrett—like many frontier vagabonds—dabbled in several occupations, including buffalo hunting. Before he shot Billy the Kid, he had already killed a fellow hunter during one of the three winters he spent on the West Texas buffalo range.

Arriving in Texas at the age of 18, Garrett had first tried his hand at herding cattle before going into partnership six years later, in 1875, with W. Skelton Glenn to hunt buffalo. At Fort Griffin, the dropping off point for the stalkers of the great Southern herd, the partners purchased 1,000 rounds of ammunition, six kegs of gunpowder and 800 pounds of lead, plus other supplies for their first winter. For shooting buffalo, Garrett bought a $50 Winchester, preferring its portability to that of the heavier Sharps.

The first winter was uneventful, but successful; Garrett earned 25 cents for a good hide and a nickel for a poor one. The next winter, Garrett killed Joe Briscoe, an Irish lad and skinner who felt Garrett had insulted him. Briscoe charged Garrett with an ax, but Garrett dodged the bladed attack, then shot Briscoe with his Winchester. Glenn convinced Garrett to hand himself over to authorities, who eventually excused the killing as self-defense.

By the winter of 1877, numerous Comanche braves had left the reservation and returned to West Texas to avenge the extermination of the buffalo. The Indians attacked isolated buffalo camps, including Glenn's and Garrett's. Absent from camp, the hunters survived unscathed, but some 800 of their hides were destroyed by the Comanches.

After a second Indian raid, Garrett decided another career change was in order and "pulled out of the country as fast as he could...," Glenn recalled. Consequently, Garrett missed the hunters' battle at Yellow House Canyon, but kept his date with destiny and the Kid.

Preston Lewis is the author of the Spur-winning *True West* article, "Bluster's Last Stand," which focuses on whiskey's influence on the Buffalo Hunters' War. Visit *TWMag.com* to read the article.

BY BOB BOZE BELL

BLACK BART'S MISTAKE

The gentleman bandit ran out of luck.

Looking more like a banker than a stagecoach robber, Black Bart cut a distinguished figure around San Francisco, where he posed as a mining investor named Charles Bolton.

–COURTESY WELLS FARGO BANK –

In San Francisco, California, the nattily-dressed Charles E. Bowles posed as mining investor Charles Bolton to hide the fact he was making his money by robbing stagecoaches as Black Bart. He was a unique criminal, not only because of his good manners, but also because he walked to and from all of his robberies.

Black Bart robbed his first stagecoach, at Funk Hill in Calaveras County, on July 26, 1875. His uniform consisted of a long white linen duster and boots wrapped in cloth, topped by a flour sack slit with two eyeholes that covered his head. A nonviolent man, he wielded an empty double-barreled shotgun.

He outwitted Wells, Fargo & Co. detectives for eight years before he got caught; he made the mistake of returning to the scene of his first crime.

For his 29th holdup, on November 3, 1883, Black Bart walked back to Funk Hill. While unbolting the strongbox, he got shot at by the stage driver and a deer hunter. When a bullet winged him in the hand, Black Bart fled. He escaped with the gold, but, in his haste, he left a tell-tale mark that put the law on his scent: a handkerchief labeled "F.X.0.7."

The Monday after the robbery, Detective Harry Morse began researching the 91 laundry centers in San Francisco. That afternoon, he found a match. By the end of the week, Black Bart confessed to the crime and took the lawmen to a hollow log where he had stashed the gold.

Prison did not remove his wit and intelligence. From behind bars, on January 10, 1884, he wrote a letter to stage driver Reason McConnell, thanking him for being such a lousy shot. He ended his friendly letter with: "...my dear sir, you have my best wishes for an unmolested, prosperous and happy drive through life. I am, dear sir, yours in haste, BB."

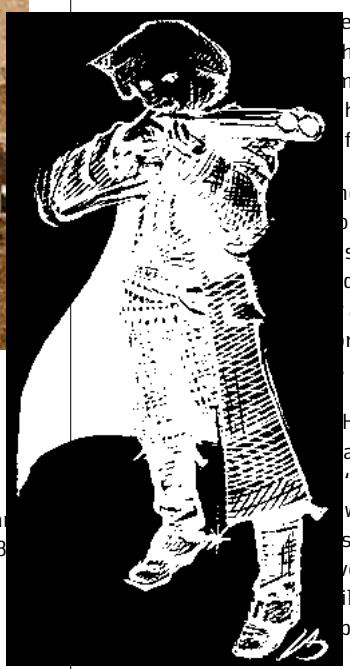
His good humor shimmered in his postscript: "P.S. But in not quite so much of a hurry as on the former occasion."

The Bandit Druggist?

On November 21, 1883, Charles "Black Bart" Bolton began serving his six-year stint at California's San Quentin Prison (above), the largest jail on the Western slope. He gained the respect of the physician and the apothecary and learned the a of compounding prescriptions. When he was released in 1888 four years and two months into his term, he made his way to Visalia and then disappeared...perhaps he left behind his bandit ways and became a druggist.

– COURTESY BILL SECREST –

Black Bart, the Po8



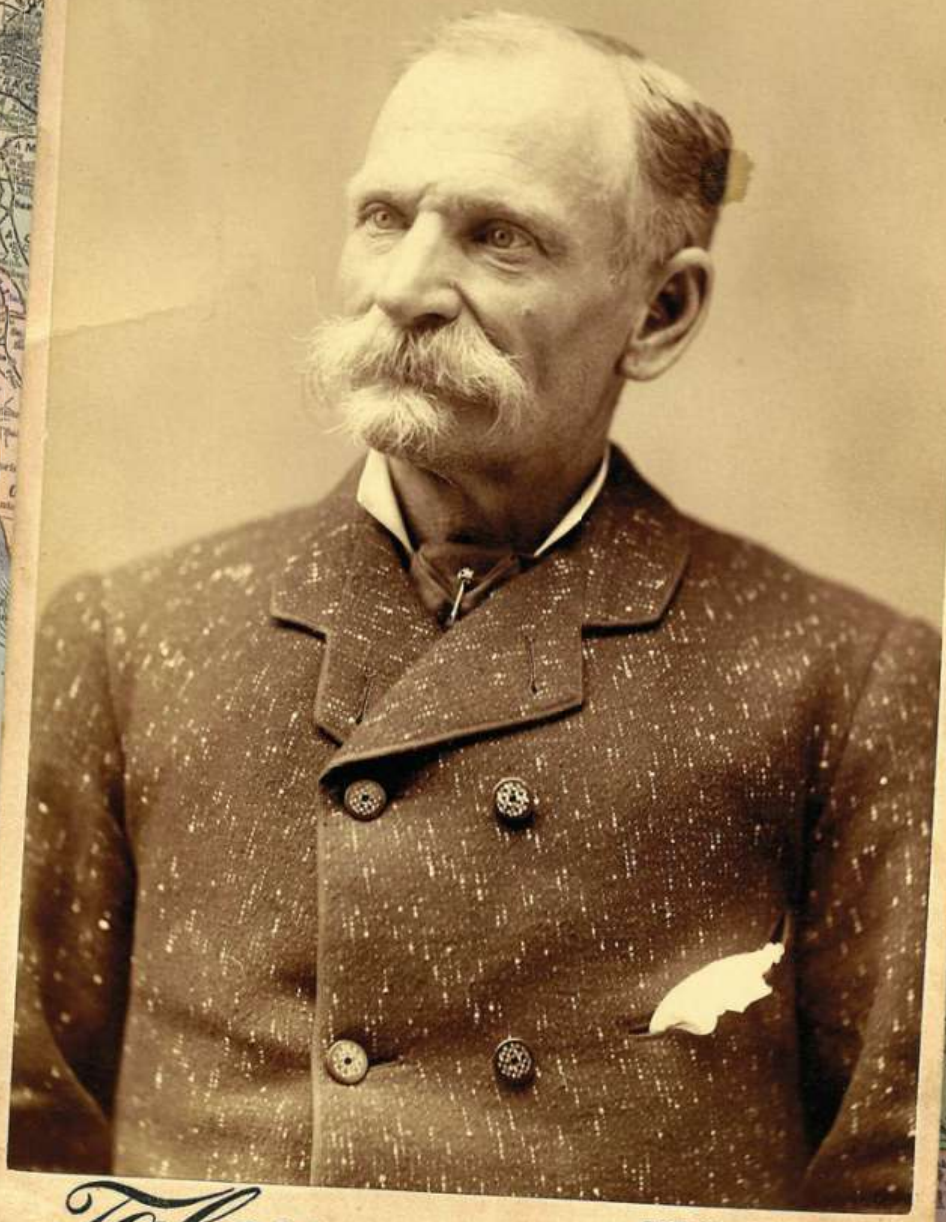
e dropped the handkerchief that got nt, Black Bart authored two short ns, signed "Black Bart, the Po8," that he left behind after his fourth and fifth stagecoach robberies.

e first poem, likely aimed at Wells, o & Co. and its perceived monopoly siness in the West, read: "I've d long and hard for bread / For and for riches,/But on my corns ng you've tred /You fine-haired of bitches."

His second poem made clear that he as robbing purely for his own gains: 'Here I lay me down to sleep / To wait the coming morrow. /Perhaps success, perhaps defeat,/And verlasting sorrow./Let come what ill, I'll try it on, /My condition can't be worse; / And if there's money in that box /Tis munny in my purse."

Black Bart still has fans today. He got photographed at San Francisco's most popular gallery, Isaiah West Taber's, on 8 Montgomery Street, circa 1883, the year the stagecoach bandit slipped up and got caught. The cabinet card attracted the attention of collectors, who bid up the photo to $42,500!

– COURTESY BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION, JUNE 23, 2012 –



BY KIM ALLEN SCOTT

Bozeman's Darkest Night

The heroic myth of the Montana Vigilantes gets a reality check with this tale of an 1873 mob.

Against the backdrop of the beautiful Gallatin Range, Joshua Crissman took this ghastly photograph of the executed prisoners on Sunday morning, February 2, 1873.

– COURTESY MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES –

When the log battering ram crashed against the jailhouse door, the prisoners inside cowered against the far wall, screaming for help in a desperate hope that someone, somehow, would come and stop the mob. Their cries were in vain, for when the sun rose over Bozeman on the next morning, two men dangled grisly from a slaughterhouse beam.

Bozeman's Downward Spiral

The lynching of Z.A. Triplett and John W. St. Clair on February 1, 1873, is one of the more ugly examples of Montana frontier vigilante activity. Unlike the more celebrated hangmen of 1864, no Bozeman participants proudly stepped forward to take credit for the deed. Unlike what preceded vigilante action in nearby Bannack and Virginia City, no wave of violence occurred in Bozeman during the first nine years of its existence, as nearby Fort Ellis provided the town with an armed government presence that precluded widespread concerns over lawlessness from either whites or Indians in the Gallatin Valley. Bozeman would walk into its darkest night in disgrace, not as heroic Montana Vigilantes acting in the best interests of their communities.

Established in 1864 as a frontier way station to service the needs of gold-seeking immigrants traveling to the Alder Gulch diggings, Bozeman had been settled by farmers and merchants. The town's saloons and brothels thrived with Chinese prostitutes catering to the bluecoats who came to town every payday, as well as a smattering of tinhorn gamblers, vagrants and loafers. The petty crime from these unsavory types never rose beyond a periodic nuisance, but that changed in 1872.

A rash of horse thefts in Gallatin County culminated that summer with a successful pursuit of the criminals by Sheriff John C. Guy. After a fierce gunfight, the lawman killed three of the thieves and captured two: Gus Callahan and George "Piute Jack" Clark.

Most residents predicted a swift conviction once the circuit judge arrived in town. "All the thieves were boys well known around Bozeman, some of them well liked," store clerk Peter Koch wrote in a letter, " but no mercy is shown a horse thief in this country."

Yet a mercy of sort was shown when Callahan was allowed out of his cell by Deputy Sheriff Charles Blakeley and escorted downtown in order to pay some debts. While on this errand, Callahan escaped out the back of the Kiyus Saloon, shaking the confidence of many Bozeman citizens in their justice system.

Go Broke, or Go for Broke?

In October, Z.A. Triplett, a 63-year-old trapper who fished for his living in the Yellowstone River, came to Bozeman to sell his catch and spend his earnings on whiskey. He had a late dinner at a lunchroom on Main Street with some friends. After Triplett refused to pay the bill, manager John Gempler took the old man's overcoat as collateral and summarily pushed him out into the cold night. When Gempler tossed out another drunk, the old trapper plunged a knife into the restaurateur. Gempler lingered until six the next morning before he died. Triplett was arrested.

Bozeman's citizens were livid; not just over the murder. They were angry about paying the cost of keeping prisoners in jail for weeks while waiting for the circuit judge to arrive and try them. "As a matter of fact our county was almost bankrupt," Deputy Blakeley wrote. "County warrants had been as low as 25 cents on the dollar."

The resentment of Bozeman's taxpayers over keeping prisoners fed was exacerbated when the next crime occurred, on January 30, 1873. John W. St. Clair, popularly known as "Steamboat Bill," was a mulatto pimp described by the local paper, *Bozeman Avant Courier*, as a "young man of low instincts, without character, and whose life, so far as known, was passed in the haunts of vice and the purlieus of profligacy."

When the Chinese prostitute he owned refused to give him 50 cents he needed to treat a friend to a cigar, Steamboat Bill threatened her by pointing his revolver at her head. Intentionally or by accident, the gun went off inches from her face and instantly killed her. Sheriff Guy arrested Steamboat Bill and took him to jail where he remained overnight.

On Friday, January 31, Justice of the Peace Samuel Langhorne held a preliminary hearing at the sheriff's office. Steamboat Bill's lawyer argued his client had shot a woman who he depended on for his living, so the gun clearly had gone off accidentally. Langhorne released Steamboat Bill on his own recognizance until the circuit court judge could arrive in March. He told Deputy Blakeley that the town's taxpayers "would kick if he made cost."

When Langhorne left the office that afternoon, he heard from townspeople angry about the release. He reversed his decision, telling the deputy, "Here is a [warrant]. Arrest Steamboat Bill and lock him up."

Blakeley put Steamboat Bill back in jail, but the damage had been done. Blakeley saw townspeople congregating at G.W. O'Dell's billiard hall. He asked night watchman A.D. McPherson to report any action. McPherson informed him, near 11 p.m., that the men had disbanded and gone to their homes. "I thought that the excitement had blown over, but not so," Blakeley wrote.

At the End of Their Ropes

On February 1, the streets of Bozeman bustled with the standard Saturday business traffic of farmers buying supplies, soldiers indulging in the town's fleshpots and merchants busily tending their stores.

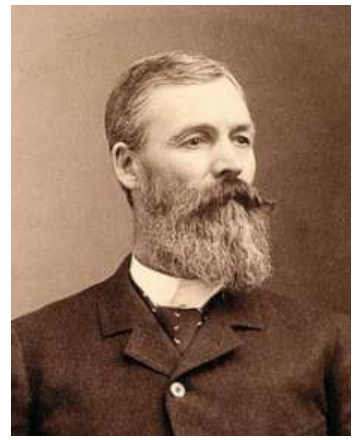
"I knew nothing at all of the intention of the vigilantes until about two o'clock [Saturday morning]," shopkeeper Koch wrote his uncle. "It was pretty generally known however, what would be done; but I had been busy all day and heard very little of what was going on."

About 10 p.m. in the back of Lester Willson's mercantile on Main Street, Koch had just finished recording the day's transactions. "...a man came in through the back door and asked me to let him have thirty feet of rope," Koch recalled. "I got up to cut it off for him, but he acted so strangely that although I had no inkling of what was going on, it struck me all at once what he wanted it for, and I told him that I didn't think I wanted to sell him any rope that night. He took my refusal very quietly and walked out."

"I thought that the excitement had blown over, but not so."

Later that night, Sheriff Guy heard shouting outside his office and rushed to investigate. Looking north along the creek at the log jailhouse, he saw a crowd of nearly 100 men watching four of their number work a battering ram against the door.

Guy ran to the Northern Pacific Hotel, with hopes that he could recruit a few good men to help him stop the mob. The couple men he found in the hotel's dining room, curiously unconcerned with his news, protested that none of them had guns. Guy brandished his own weapon to convince the patrons to follow, and they moved stealthily east along Main Street.



A merciful act by Deputy Sheriff Charles Blakeley shook the faith Bozeman citizens had in their legal system and inspired some of them to take matters into their own hands.

– COURTESY MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS –

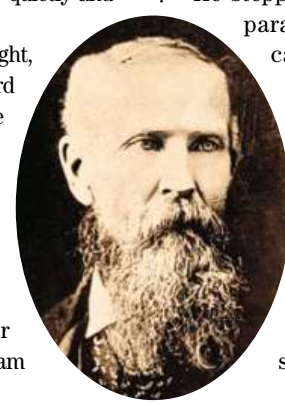
Just short of the bridge that spanned Bozeman Creek, two men who had been watching from the shadows of nearby buildings relieved the sheriff of his pistol.

By this time, the men had broken the door to the jail and rushed into the darkened interior. One struck a match and examined the inmates, seeing through the brief illumination the wild-eyed stare of Steamboat Bill and the huddled form of Triplett lying helplessly on the floor. The invaders roughly jerked the old man to his feet, grabbed Steamboat Bill and shoved them outside.

Dead and Done

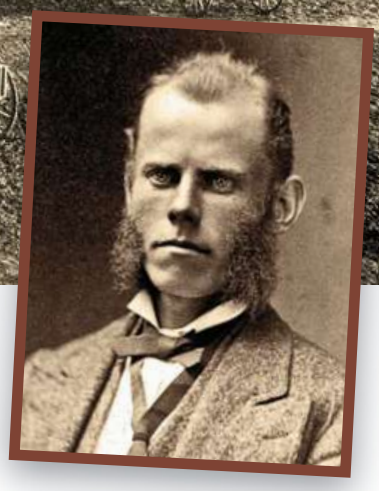
As the mob dragged their captives east, splashing across Bozeman Creek toward the stockyard and slaughterhouse, Judge Langhorne heard the commotion. He stepped onto Main Street and ran parallel to the retreating mob, calling for them to stop. But the same vigilante sentinels who had prevented the sheriff from interfering also stopped the judge.

The judge returned to his drugstore and convinced a friend to ride to Fort Ellis, three miles distant, to fetch some soldiers. By the time the soldiers arrived, the only people remaining on the scene were two corpses dangling from the crossbeam of a wood frame structure that served as a hoist for slaughtering cows.



Sheriff John C. Guy never identified the vigilantes who had stopped him from preventing the hangings.

– COURTESY GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM –



This early 1873 photo of Main Street in Bozeman, Montana, shows a two-story white building in the center distance, Lester Willson's store, where Peter Koch was working the night of the lynching. Shown in the inset, Koch bravely refused to sell rope to the vigilantes.

– COURTESY MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS –

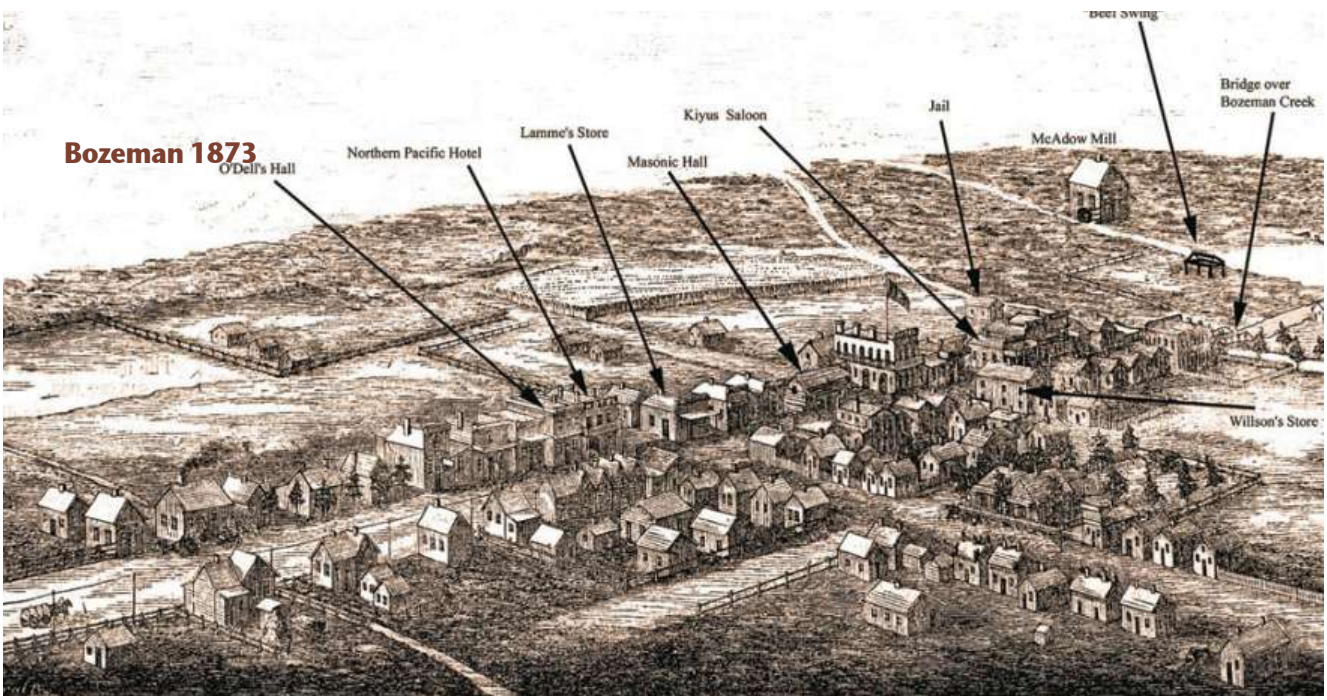
An anonymous note arrived at the town's newspaper office a few hours after Joshua Crissman took his photograph of the hanged men that morning: "Permit us to inform the good people of Gallatin County through the columns of your noble paper, that all action of desperados, such as garotting soldiers, shooting and stabbing white men or Chinese, is now and forever played out in this community. So mote it be. Committee Three Hundred."

No one was ever convicted for the lynching. The taxpaying hangmen who executed Triplett and St. Clair never admitted their duplicity: they had as much to gain by quickly executing the men as they did by protecting their town from outlaws.

Perhaps the recognition of that ugly reality inspired the publication of another anonymous submission, which closed out the discussion in town a few weeks later. Written by a semi-literate friend of Triplett's (notice the misspellings), the poem insisted

he kiled A lo down man
for steeling his over cote
and hoo A moung that mid night band
would not fight for that he bought?
and now good by to that old man
God rest his poor old sole
and tak him to that good land
whare the help les ought to go

Professor **Kim Allen Scott** is the university archivist at Montana State University Library in Bozeman. His most recent book shares Peter Koch's writings, *Splendid on a Large Scale*; he is also the author of a biography on U.S. Cavalry Capt. Gustavus Doane and editor of Albert Bishop's *Loyalty on the Frontier*, first published in 1863.



– COURTESY KIM ALLEN SCOTT –

SOLDIERS

AT PLAY

BY JOHN LANGELLIER

Pastimes of the Army in the frontier American West.

Troops serving in the frontier American West spent most of their time on routine matters, occasionally punctuated by hard campaigning, but they also found time to relax. The isolation of many frontier posts meant diversions depended on individual ingenuity to stave off the "long and tiresome" hours of off-duty time, as U.S. Army wife Frances Roe recorded, observing a "few who yawn and complain of the monotony of frontier life."

These were the "stay-at-homes who" just sat "by their own fires day and day" letting "cobwebs gather in brain and lungs." The vivacious Army bride contended they also were the "ones who have time to discover so many faults in others and become our garrison gossips."

Athletic and energetic, Roe chastised these layabouts, believing they would do better to "take brisk rides on spirited horses in this wonderful air, and learn to shoot all sorts of guns," which would allow them

Some of the soldier thespians at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas took on the role of the dreaded pirates for the Gilbert and Sullivan play "The Pirates of Penzance."

– COURTESY LEAVENWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY –

to "discover that a frontier post [could] furnish plenty of excitement."

Another spouse of an Army officer, Ellen Biddle, followed the prescription to embrace the equestrian life—only to have her sorrel act up. Her mare "threw herself back on her haunches, standing almost straight...." Reacting rapidly, Ellen jumped from the rearing mount into her husband's arms.

Mishaps aside, riding for pleasure was a frequent activity. Horses also could be run in races replete with "gay jockey costumes," as Gen. George W. Custer's wife, Elizabeth, recollected in her memoirs.

She recalled how the enlisted men came out to watch and cheer on their officers, although they were prohibited from wagers. This order was likely ignored. Gambling in many forms—including various card games, such as the ever popular Victorian favorite, Faro—was common among both soldiers and their superiors.

Horses also pulled sleighs in the winter or buckboards and other conveyances in warmer weather, for picnics or camping trips to the mountains, as an escape from summer heat or to hunt.

Hunting and fishing not only helped pass time, but the wild game also provided a supplement to the often limited fare available in mess halls or from other civilian and military supply sources. Outings might add antelope chops, catfish, prairie chicken, elk steaks or other items to the menu.

Despite the lack of many essential ingredients, the penchant for formal dining caused more than one wife of an Army officer to task her imagination. Memoirs abound referring to the lengths taken to provide a proper table. Roe prided herself on "knowing how to make more delicious little dishes out of nothing...."

At Fort Randall in Dakota Territory (present-day South Dakota), Capt. Willis Wittich peddled along on his high wheeler, which required both skill and daring.

– COURTESY ROBERT L. KOTHIAN COLLECTION –

"I never objected to entertaining men; they were easily pleased...."

The males who dined from makeshift menus did not seem to mind as another officer's lady, Lydia Lane, observed: "I never objected to entertaining men; they were easily pleased, and willing to make due allowance for lack of variety of dainties in the larder."

One colonel was an exception. Roe noted he was the bane of many hostesses because he was "fussy and finical *[sic]* about all things pertaining to the table," and he made no effort to conceal his disdain for a meal not up to his high standards.

Outside this uniform-wearing gastronome, guests much appreciated the efforts of the ladies to work miracles, as medically retired cavalry captain Charles King portrayed in one of his popular novels. He painted a picture of an impressive meal to be hosted by the commanding officer's

Pool, billiards, cards and, even in a few instances, bowling could pass time after hours and before "lights out" sounded.

– COURTESY FRONTIER ARMY MUSEUM AT FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS –

Post Quartermaster Sgt. Charles Harvey relaxed at his quarters at Fort Stanton in New Mexico Territory by reading to his receptive audience of one.

– COURTESY MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO –

Shall we dance? Military "hops" could be simple soirées or elegant affairs, depending on the circumstances; this elegant hop was held to celebrate Christmas at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas Territory during the early 1890s.

– COURTESY LEAVENWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY –

wife (known in U.S. Army slang of the post-Civil War period by the abbreviation K.O.W.). The dialogue in anticipation of this fine spread ran:

"Of course they haven't white wine here…! But there's claret—famous claret, too, and the water in the big *olla's* even cooler than the spring. They'll have French dressing for the salad. They have tomato soup even *you* couldn't growl at, and roast chicken, with real potatoes, and *petits pois*, and corn, and olives; then salad cool as the spring; then there's to be such an *omelette soufflée*—and coffee...!"

Repasts regularly went hand in hand with dances, known as "hops" in the military parlance of the Victorian era. Improvisation also extended to the musical accompaniment for those who wanted to trip the light fantastic. History records numerous examples of soldiers converting an interior of some otherwise ordinary space into a suitable site. Crossed sabers, guidons, candles and other decorations enhanced the ambience. In turn, a guitar, banjo, fiddle and some other locally available instrument were pressed into service as an impromptu orchestra.

At larger posts that served as regimental headquarters, military bands could be enjoyed. When these organizations fell prey to government neglect and lack of funding, several enterprising commanders obtained money to support a band and, in some cases, aggressively recruited martial musicians right off the boat from Europe. The bands helped pass idle hours for both those in uniform and local civilians, helping to build morale and enhance good relations with the community.

Men living in barracks were not all plaster saints.

Not all recreation revolved around wholesome pursuits. Men living in barracks, as Rudyard Kipling observed, were not all plaster saints. Some drank to excess, and this problem could be found from high-ranking officer to the lowest private. Drunkenness and desertion were the twin plagues of the frontier Army. Gambling, fighting and pursuing ladies of the night also caused consternation among commanders intent on maintaining discipline and health.

To discourage bad habits, commanders sought to encourage socially acceptable activities that would boost esprit. Sports offered one avenue. Track and field events, baseball, football and even tennis (at least for officers) numbered among the athletic options. Where water was found, boating and ice skating could be pursued.

If the out of doors was not one's cup of tea, or when inclement weather prohibited enjoying nature, reading books in the post library or the privacy of quarters, reciting poetry, writing letters home, singing in the post chapel's choir or a post musical group, escaping to another world via stereoscopes and even acting in or attending a play offered other means to while away the hours.

As Roe contended, life did not have to be gloomy or morose at a frontier Army post. Efforts to support a certain élan and

to perpetuate the values soldiers and their wives brought with them from the East existed for those creative enough to fight boredom, an enemy faced more frequently by frontier soldiers than foes in the field.

John Langellier received his PhD in military history from Kansas State University. After a 45-year career in public history, he retired in Tucson, Arizona, in 2015. He is the author of dozens of books, including *Fighting for Uncle Sam: Blacks in the Frontier Army*, due out in early 2016.

Frances Roe encouraged frontier soldiers and their wives to mount up and ride to the hounds in pursuit of a coyote, buffalo or other fleet footed game. This couple at Arizona Territory's Fort Verde enjoyed even more laughs by switching hats.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Boating was an option for a pleasant outing only where sufficient water could be found; it was not available in the many arid areas of the frontier West.

– COURTESY U.S. ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE –

Play ball! A game against fellow soldiers or local civilians was rather common as the national pastime grew in popularity.

– COURTESY JOSEPH J. PENNELL COLLECTION, KENNETH SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS –

Tenting on the plains was a popular pastime with George A. Custer and wife Libbie, arguably the most famous military couple in the Old West, and for many other U.S. Army families.

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION –

Libations and games of cards could be passive pastimes or, in excess, might result in violence or addiction.

– COURTESY WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT –

Drunkenness and desertion were the twin plagues of the frontier Army.

Croquet anyone? The post parade ground made a perfect place to play this genteel game.

– COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION –

When the sun was not blazing, residents at Arizona Territory's Fort Huachuca could play a game of tennis or badminton.

– COURTESY U.S. ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE –

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Cowboy & Actor Ben Johnson

He truly knew his horses.

Ben Johnson's first star role was in 1950's *Wagon Master*, where he, fittingly, given his horse ranching background, played a horse trader. He's shown in that role (left) and on the run aboard Bingo in the same film (below). Three years later, he returned to rodeo and won a world roping championship. By the year's end, he realized movies were less riskier and paid better, and he returned to Hollywood.

– COURTESY RKO RADIO PICTURES –

Ben Johnson arrived in California in the late 1930s after Howard Hughes bought some horses from an Oklahoma ranch where Johnson worked. Hughes liked the way the cowboy handled horses and offered him a job hauling them to northern Arizona, where he was filming *The Outlaw* starring Jane Russell. When filming was finished, Johnson hauled the horses on to California. In 1939 and during the early 1940s, he wrangled and performed stunt work until he caught the eye of Director John Ford while doubling for Henry Fonda in 1948's *Fort Apache*. As they say, "The rest is history."

Arizona's official state historian **Marshall Trimble** traveled with actor Ben Johnson to Monument Valley in the mid-1990s. Trimble is vice president of the Wild West History Association, and his latest book is *Arizona's Outlaws and Lawmen*.

Johnson went uncredited in movie roles until John Ford's 1948 Western *3 Godfathers*, where he played posse man #1. His next Western was 1949's *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon:* (above, from left) John Wayne, Harry Carey Jr., Ben Johnson, John Agar and George O'Brien.

– COURTESY RKO RADIO PICTURES –

The actor stands with his horse, Steel, in this publicity photo for 1950's *Wagon Master*. Steel was a famous movie horse owned by Ben Johnson's father-in-law, Clarence "Fat" Jones, who ran a horse renting stable in Hollywood. Johnson rode Steel when he won his world champion steer roping title in 1953. In the movies, though, Steel had his own stunt double—a fabulous galloper named Bingo.

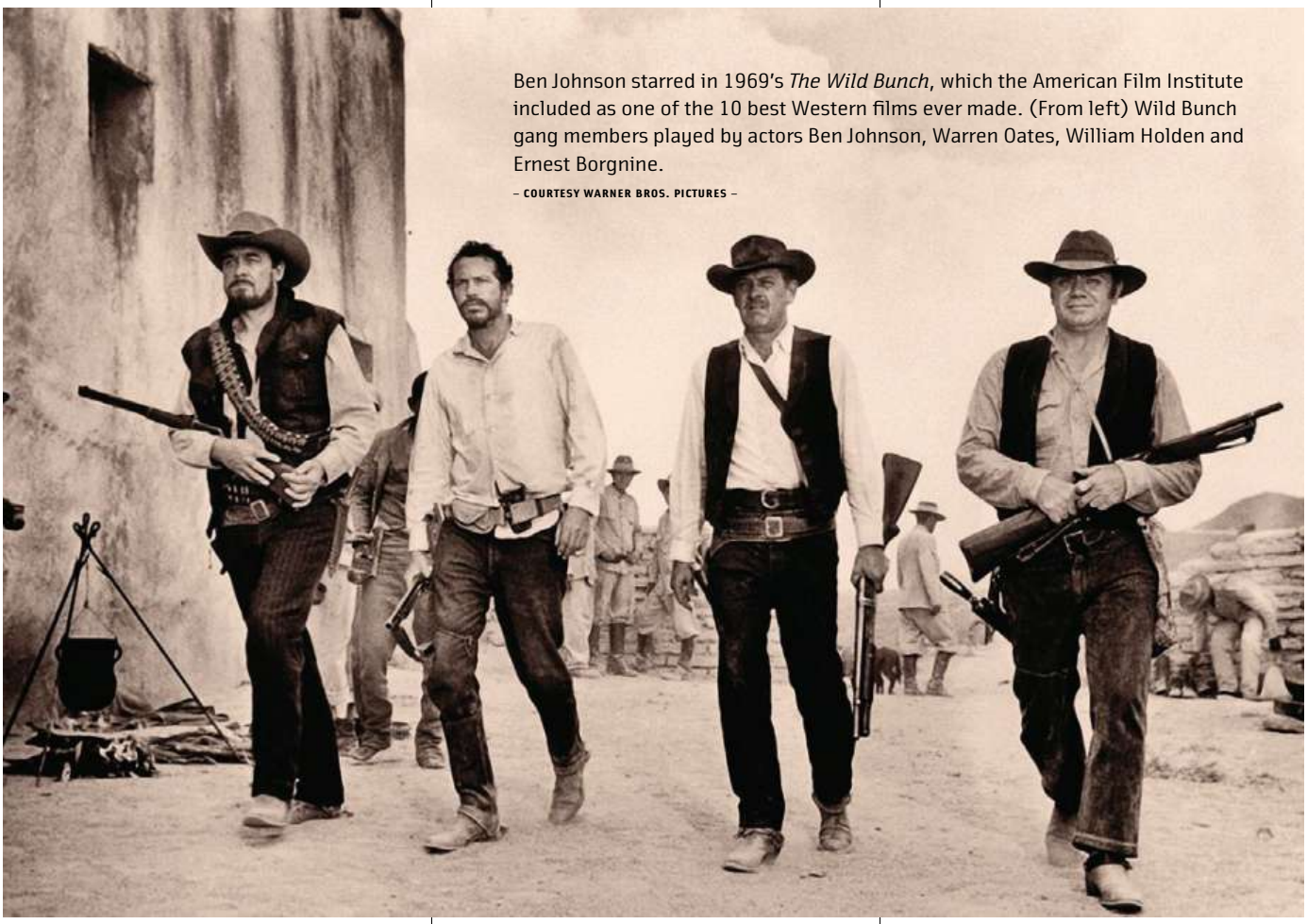
– COURTESY RKO RADIO PICTURES –

The Ben Johnson Memorial Steer Roping event, still held annually in June, honors the actor's father, a cattleman rancher who was also a champion steer roper. Both father and son were inducted into Oklahoma City's National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, in 1961 and 1982 respectively.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

His roughly 300 films and TV shows include 1961's *One-Eyed Jacks*, the only movie directed by actor Marlon Brando, who turned Johnson (shown) into an outlaw.

– COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES –



Ben Johnson starred in 1969's *The Wild Bunch*, which the American Film Institute included as one of the 10 best Western films ever made. (From left) Wild Bunch gang members played by actors Ben Johnson, Warren Oates, William Holden and Ernest Borgnine.

– COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES –

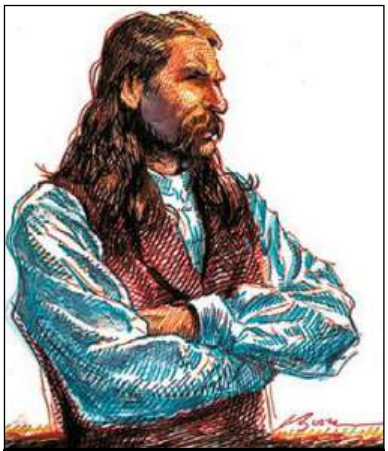
TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

HAYS IN AN UPROAR

WILD BILL HICKOK VS THE 7TH CAVALRY

HICKOK ALMOST GETS AN EARFUL



Wild Bill Hickok

– ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Joseph G. Rosa

JULY 17, 1870

Deputy U.S. Marshal James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok converses with the bartender at Paddy Welch's in Hays City, Kansas. Without warning, two 7th Cavalry troopers attack Hickok from the rear, pinning his arms and wrestling him to the floor. A newspaper later reports that "Five soldiers attacked Bill...."

Of the two known troopers, Jeremiah Lonergan, a "pugilist" and powerful man, pins down Hickok. He does everything in his power to keep the lawman's arms away from his body... and his pistols.

A second soldier, John Kile, whips out a Remington pistol from underneath his blouse, "put the muzzle into Wild Bill's ear, and snapped it," an eyewitness claims. The pistol misfires.

Amid the yelling and ensuing commotion, Hickok and the two soldiers grapple on the floor, each trying to get an advantage. (At some point, Hickok is wounded in the leg; the historical record is unclear if he was shot or merely injured in the scuffling.)

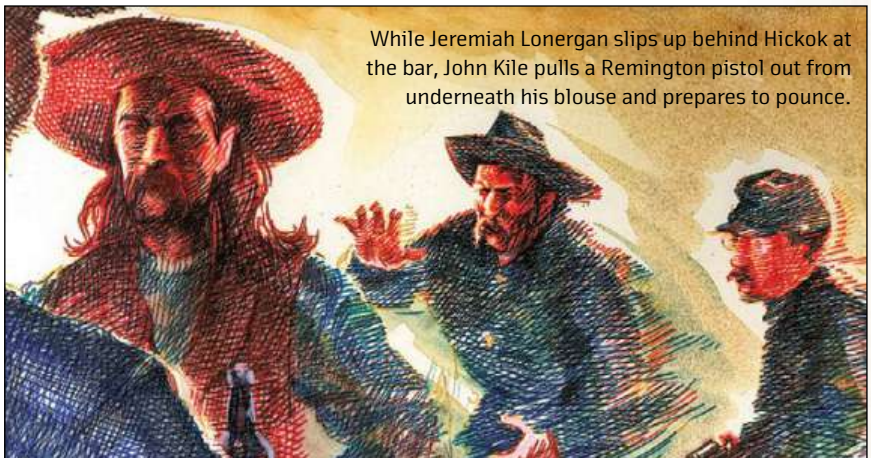
In spite of Lonergan's best efforts, Hickok grabs one pistol from his holster and fires a round, hitting Kile in the wrist. A second round hits Kile in the side, and he rolls away in agony.

Lonergan desperately fights for his life as he tries to keep Hickok's pistol barrel pointed away from him. Pushing against the much larger man, Hickok fights with all his might, finally turning his pistol far enough to fire. The resulting shot hits Lonergan in the kneecap.

Stunned, Lonergan gives up his grip and joins Kile on the disabled list. Hickok wastes no time escaping as he scrambles to his feet, makes "tracks for the back of the saloon" and jumps "through a window, taking the glass and sash with him...."

When news of the gunfight reaches Fort Hays, a number of troopers seize their guns, head for Hays City and search all the "saloons and dives," but they can't find their man.

At 9:15 p.m., 7th Cavalry soldiers from Fort Hays head toward their target, Wild Bill Hickok, at Paddy Welch's, John D. Walsh's saloon on Main Street in Hays City, Kansas.



While Jeremiah Lonergan slips up behind Hickok at the bar, John Kile pulls a Remington pistol out from underneath his blouse and prepares to pounce.

After Kile's pistol misfires, Hickok struggles to free his pistol from his holster (A). Hickok clears leather and fires, hitting Kile in the wrist (B). A second shot hits the reeling Kile in the side, and he spins away. Training both pistols on the remaining soldiers (C), Hickok covers his retreat before he jumps through the rear window to safety.

This haunting image of the lawman hung in the home of Hickok's sister Lydia for many years. Believed to have been taken in the early 1870s, the photo shows Hickok looking wistful.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok returned to his room and grabbed a Winchester rifle and 100 rounds of ammunition. He hid out in the Boot Hill Cemetery, west of town, waiting for an attack that never came. In the morning, he boarded a train at Big Creek Station and hightailed out of the area.

John Kile lived until July 18, when he died from wounds received "as a result of a drunken row and not in the line of duty." The year before, Kile had received the Medal of Honor for protecting his fellow soldiers in an Indian skirmish.

Jeremiah Lonergan recovered from his wound. The day after Christmas, in a drunken rage, he threatened to stab a sergeant. He was sentenced to nearly three years at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. He disappeared after that.

An illustration of Hickok fighting 15 men, which appears in James Buel's *Heroes of the Plains.*

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

As the months turned into years, the legend of the gunfight expanded with each retelling, and the tally of soldiers fighting Hickok grew. James Buel's mammoth 1881 tome, *Heroes of the Plains*, has Hickok fighting 15 soldiers (see illustration above) and being wounded seven times after killing three troopers.

Recommended: *They Called Him Wild Bill* (1974) and *Wild Bill Hickok, Gunfighter* by Joseph G. Rosa, published by University of Oklahoma Press.

TOM AUGHERTON

The Mystery of the Great Medicine Gun

ISAIAH QUINBY LUKENS

The VMI Museum contains evidence that suggests that Meriwether Lewis may have had this Lukens air gun (left) on the Western expedition. The gun has an air chamber in the butt and is fully stocked, with a brass octagon barrel and wood ramrod. The butt of the rifle is a hollow canister storing compressed air between 700 and 900 pounds per square inch. A needle valve holds air until the trigger is pressed. Air is added back by a hand pump.

– COURTESY HENRY STEWART COLLECTION, VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE MUSEUM, 1988.0031.007 –

DID Isaiah Lukens construct the air gun nicknamed "Great Medicine" that the 1803-'06 Corps of Discovery brought to impress the Indians on their journey West, or was he too young to have made the unusual rifle while still apprenticing at his father's clock factory in Horsham? Or, was the air gun with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark actually a European-made Bartolomeo Girardoni repeater-style?

Lukens was born August 4, 1779, to Seneca and Sarah Lukens in Horsham Township, Pennsylvania. Isaiah apprenticed with his father to also become a clockmaker in their small Quaker community.

As an apprentice, young Lukens invented and adapted devices, from clocks to windmills to air-powered guns. He was soon considered one of the commonwealth's most ingenious craftsmen, perfecting a valve for air guns that resolved the problem of decreased pressurized air after each shot. His passion for hunting with air guns—and making them—is one of the great debates in American gun-making history.

In the 1950s, historians began investigating the mystery of Lewis and Clark's air rifle. The noiseless gun impressed the Indians the explorers met on their journey. In 1804, William Clark wrote, "We showed them many curiosities and the air gun which they were much astonished at."

In 1977, gun historian Henry Stewart Sr., found a record of Lukens' 1847 estate sale, which included a mention of an air gun used by Lewis and Clark's expedition. It disappeared into history but Lukens was known for building air guns with apprentice Jacob Kunz.

> "We showed them many curiosities and the air gun which they were much astonished at."

Then in 2002, intrepid firearm historian Michael Carrick, using primary documents, asserted that Lukens did not open a shop in Philadelphia until 1814, and could not have been the gunmaker who sold the gun to Lewis, and the gun that went West was a Girardoni repeater-style air rifle.

Dr. Robert D. Beeman, a Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation member, documents that Meriwether Lewis was in the Philadelphia area from May 9 to June 9, 1803, gathering supplies for the upcoming expedition.

He believes that Lewis "could hardly have avoided the opportunity to obtain an air rifle from Lukens' shop." Beeman even wonders if Lukens' apprentice, Joseph Kunz, and friend Coleman Sellers, all in their early twenties, were "America's first air gun nuts" preoccupied with the 19th-century "cool" technology and if the return of the Lewis air gun to Lukens' shop after the expedition supports the theory that the shop was the initial source.

So was it a Lukens original or a Girardoni-style gun of power and grace that amazed Indians who nicknamed it "Great Medicine" for its smokeless firepower? We may never know, but his name should be remembered with other intrepid American gun inventors Samuel Colt, Eliphalet Remington and Christian Sharps.

Lukens died at his workbench, tools in hand, on November 12, 1846, at age 67.

Tom Augherton suggests three museums to see Lukens and/or Girardoni air rifles: the VMI Museum, in Lexington, Virginia; the Cody Firearms Museum in Cody, Wyoming; and the NRA National Sporting Guns Museum in Springfield, Missouri.

Intrepid New England inventor and gunsmith Isaiah Lukens, who also invented the speedometer, had in his possession at the time of his death "1 large air gun made for and used by Messrs. Lewis and Clark in their exploring expeditions," according to a published 1847 estate sale.

– CHARLES WILSON PEALE/COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

The VMI Lukens Air Rifle, ca. 1803

– COURTESY HENRY STEWART COLLECTION, VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE MUSEUM, 1988.0031.007A –

The Cody Firearms Lukens Air Rifle, ca. 1803

– COURTESY BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST, CODY, WYOMING, USA, GIFT OF THOMAS K. HUTCHINSON 1993.8.103–

The NRA Girardoni Air Rifle , ca. 1780–1799

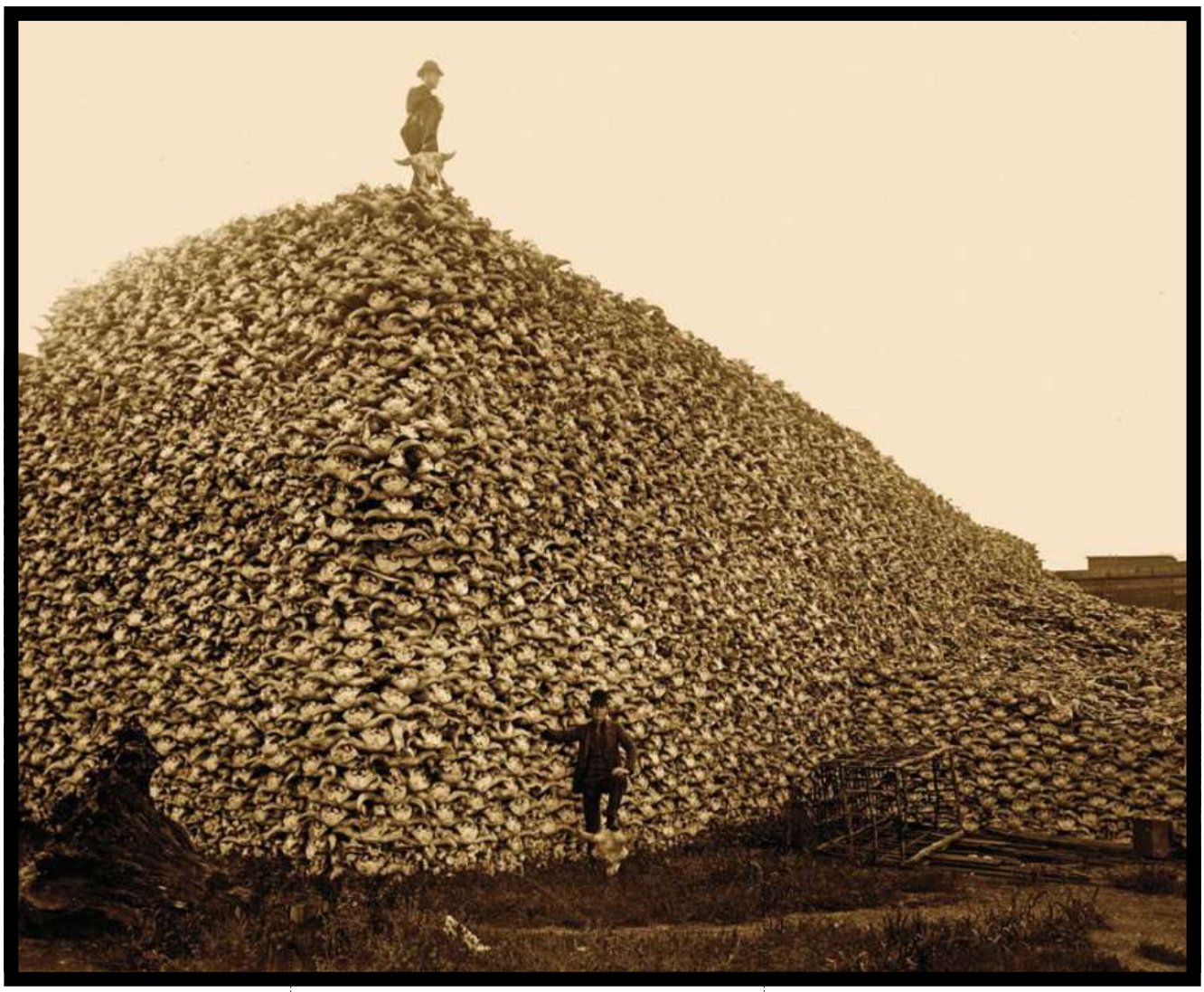
– COURTESY NRA MUSEUMS, NRAMUSEUMS.COM –

Historians agree Lewis and Clark had an air rifle. What remains debatable is who made the gun, and what type it was. Staff at the VMI Museum believe its .31 caliber Lukens gun (top) is the Lewis and Clark air rifle. The Cody Firearms Museum cites newer research suggesting that Lewis carried a Girardoni repeater-style rifle, not a Lukens air gun (middle). The NRA Museum is confident that it was not a Lukens-made gun that went West, but rather it was this Bartolomeo Girardoni 22-shot repeating rifle (bottom).

BY CANDY MOULTON

On the Trail of the Buffalo Hunters

The Mooar Brothers hunted the great bison herds of Kansas and Texas to near extinction.



Buffalo hunters took the hides and choice cuts of meat, leaving behind the bones of the thousands of animals they killed. This pile of skulls is a graphic example of the destruction of the great plains herds.

– COURTESY NPS.GOV –

A bull bison looked at me from the diorama at the Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City, Kansas, when I began to hear a rumble. As the sound in the room grew louder, a herd (pun intended) of elementary school students came rushing into the small room where I stood. The kids tumbled onto the floor as the rumble became louder and louder.

"It's a massage," the kids yelled as they lay on the floor that had begun to shake along with the rumble. On a series of four small monitors above the bison mount, Buck Taylor (you might remember him as Newly on *Gunsmoke*) and Dodge City spokesman Brett Harris shared

"Have no fear about Wright and me. We are on the frontier.... Times look promising here now....We are bold, tough, hearty, and rugged..."

stories of the bison that once roamed by the hundreds of thousands across the plains. When images from the film *Dances with Wolves* showing a bison hunt by American Indian hunters swept across the screens, the rumble of pounding hooves became louder and louder, the floor shook harder, and the school students yelled in delight.

These youngsters may or may not have learned anything about the historic Great Plains bison herds, but they almost certainly went home talking about the experience they had at the museum. But Boot Hill Museum has more to represent the era of the buffalo hunters, including a display of buffalo hunter guns.

Dodge City

Dodge City was a center of the buffalo trade in the 1870s when Josiah Wright Mooar arrived. Born in Pownal, Vermont, Wright left home at age 19 and after spending some time attending school in Michigan, and then working in Illinois, he went west to Hays City, Kansas, where he found work cutting firewood for use at Fort Hays.

He saved enough money to buy a buffalo hunting outfit, and with three wagons and four hired hunter/skinners set out in search of the Great Plains herd along the Smoky Hill River. Wright worked his way south to Fort Dodge, and caught a break in 1871-'72 when Charles Rath, a freighter and hunter, received an order for 500 buffalo hides for an English tannery. Rath enlisted the aid of Wright Mooar in providing the requisite number of hides.

When the hides to fill the English ord■ were shipped to New York City some le over were hauled through town in an open wagon. A Pennsylvania tanner saw them, and at the urging of Wright's older brother, John Wesley Mooar, who worked in New York City, the tanner bought the excess hides. After processing, he liked the leather so much that he placed a new order for 2,000 more hides. This kind of enterprise required serious commitment, so John Wesley Mooar quit his job and joined Wright to handle the business end of buffalo hunting, arriving in Dodge City in November 1872.

The buffalo-hunting trail of Wright and John Wesley Mooar took them south into the Texas Panhandle, where thousands of bison were eating upland grass. During the fall of 1873 hunting season the Mooar hunting team would "take a wagon, a roll of bedding, and a little grub and, with a four-mule team, would drive out on the divide that separates the North Palo Duro from the Canadian [River]," Wright wrote. "There we would interrupt the buffalo herds that were crossing....We stayed on the divide until we loaded our wagon with hides and meat. We could haul 10,000 pounds with four mules when the ground was frozen. We could load, come back to camp, unload, and go back again."

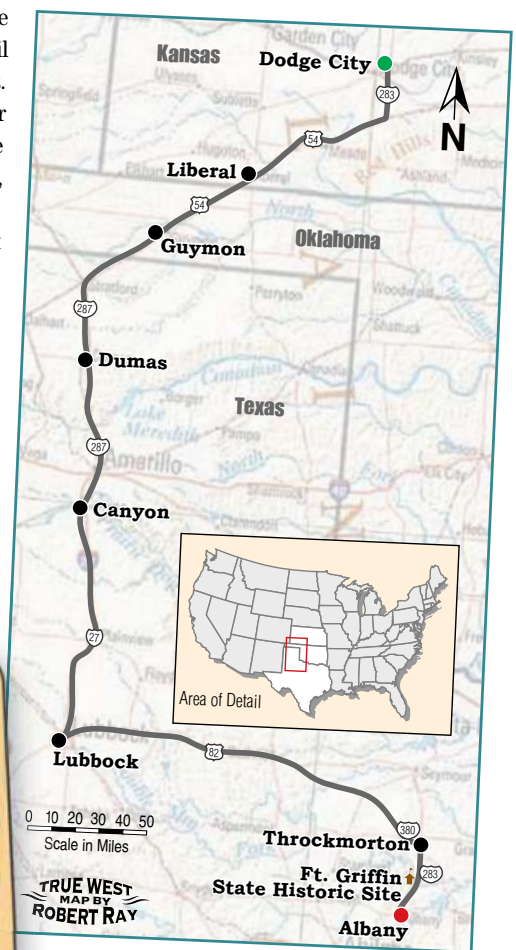
John Mooar further explained the work in a letter written to their mother on Oct. 31, 1873. "Have no fear about Wright and me. We are on the frontier....Times look promising here now....We are bold, tough, hearty, and rugged....We have some hardships to endure and also some good ones. We can't set a nice table, but our food is of the best in the way of meat that the world affords. The things we sit down to eat in camp would make a meal for a king."

John Wesley Mooar was working in New York City when his younger brother shipped a load of buffalo hides to the city. When those hides were purchased by a tanner who subsequently ordered 2,000 more hides, John quit his job and headed to Kansas and Texas to hunt buffalo with brother Wright Mooar.

– COURTESY SOUTHWEST COLLECTION/ SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, LUBBOCK, TEXAS, MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, SWCPC, 54-268-3 –

The Texas Panhandle

My route takes me south from Dodge City and Fort Dodge across the Oklahoma Panhandle, and into the Texas Panhandle, where the Mooar brothers hunted in 1873 and 1874. These and other buffalo hunters



Historical Marker
Buffalo Trails

The tracks of bison in soft soil have been preserved in a concrete cast and are displayed at the Heart of West Texas Museum in Colorado City, Texas, recognizing the thousands of animals that created buffalo trails across West Texas. An accompanying historical marker recognizes the trails to watering holes, as well as the hunting achievements of Wright and John Mooar, who became residents of the area.

When the Mooar Brothers were in Dodge City, Kansas, they would have frequented the businesses of Front Street, which quickly gained national notoriety for wickedness after cowboys and cattle drives inundated the town after the arrival of the railroad in September 1872.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

constructed a trading post they called Adobe Walls, about a mile from the earlier fort of the same name. As they hunted through the country, the Mooars had brushes with Indians, but they loaded their wagons with hides and set off for Dodge City without incident, barely missing involvement at the Second Battle at Adobe Walls, and the seemingly miraculous long-distance shot by Billy Dixon that killed a Comanche and became a pivotal moment in the conflict.

This fight resulted in the subsequent attack on Comanches in Palo Duro Canyon in 1874 by Col. Ranald S. Mackenzie, who not only routed the tribesmen, but also killed about a thousand of their horses, ultimately forcing the Comanches out of West Texas and onto a reservation in Oklahoma Territory.

The Mooars and other buffalo hunters now had a much safer area in which to ply their weapons and they killed thousands upon thousands of head of bison, ultimately working their way east to the country along the Brazos River and Fort Griffin, which had been established in 1867.

My journey takes me to Canyon, Texas, near Palo Duro Canyon and home of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum with its outstanding murals by Harold Bugbee depicting some of the buffalo hunter legacy. From Canyon, I headed south to Lubbock and the History Museum at Texas Tech,

Visitors to the Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City, Kansas, will learn about the ecology and history of the demise of the vast herds of buffalo from over-hunting on the southern Plains in the 1870s.

– COURTESY BOOT HILL MUSEUM –

where History Curator Henry Crawford, who often appears as a buffalo hunter re-enactor in living history programs, takes me into the archival collections for a view of personal items that belonged to John Wesley and Wright Mooar, including John's gun, photographs and even a teething ring!

The Southern Plains of West Texas

Heading east from Lubbock, I drive through the country where the big buffalo herds once roamed. I'm on my way to Fort Griffin, which has just opened a new visitors' center that tells the story of the buffalo hunters, the Comanche and Kiowa Indians, the frontier military and the early settlers in the area around Albany, Texas.

Each October the fort comes to life when modern-day re-enactors set up camp and share stories of the people who were at Fort Griffin in the 19th century. Located on a high plateau, Fort Griffin provides a stunning view of a landscape in many ways little changed from the days when Wright and John Mooar hunted buffalo in the area.

Fort Griffin State Park and Historic Site represents primarily the military era, with a nod or two to the buffalo hunters. The

Each October the parade ground at Fort Griffin is brought to life when re-enactors put up tents and provide demonstrations related to the the frontier military at the post, which was established in 1867.

– CANDY MOULTON –

civilian side of life in the region during the 19th century is down the hill at the town of Fort Griffin, known as The Flat. There you'll see the original jail in a community that was pretty raucous in its heyday. If you ask at the visitors' center, they can give directions to other historic sites in the area, including a Comanche treaty ground.

By 1875 the Mooar brothers were based out of Fort Griffin, chasing—killing—the big bison herds in the area. Wright said, "When you'd shoot a buffalo in the lights, he'd throw blood out of his nose. Then he'd step backward a step or two, flop over and die. If you shot him through the heart, he'd run about four hundred yards before he'd fall, and he'd take the herd with him."

Wright had learned to pick the leader of the herd and shoot that animal first. "As soon as I killed him, the others would stop running. They would mill around, bellow, paw the ground, and smell the blood."

For each hunting stand, Wright tried to move within a hundred yards before firing the first shot. He wrote, "The best bunch you'd get a stand on was one of two or three hundred....I never used a rest stick. I shot off my knee or sat down and rested both elbows on my knees.Sometimes I lay flat on my stomach, with elbows spraddled."

The killing and skinning of buffalo by the thousands for the use of their hides in the eastern factories was a front page story in *Harper's Weekly,* December 18, 1874.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

While the shooting was underway the skinners who had the wagons remained at a distance, but Wright added, "When I got through [shooting] and gave them the signal, they'd go to the first buffalo and skin him and throw the hide in the wagon."

Mooar would eventually hunt as far south as Fort Concho, and had already hunted in the area west to Palo Duro

Renowned Texas artist Harold Dow Bugbee's 1956 mural *Hide Hunters* can be seen on a tour of exhibits on the history of buffalo at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum's in Canyon, Texas.

– COURTESY THE LYDA HILL TEXAS COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Canyon. In 1878 Wright hauled a load of buffalo meat to Prescott, Arizona, and later he took a delivery to Colorado City, Texas. But the bison herds were soon decimated, destroying a way of life for the native people of the region as well as the hunters who had shot themselves out of a business.

The brothers married and ultimately settled in West Texas. John sold carriages and owned land in Colorado City and Wright ranched near Snyder.

In one of her other lives, road warrior **Candy Moulton** creates exhibits and films for museums and visitors' centers. She wrote and produced the new interpretive film for Fort Griffin State Historic Site.

Travelers between Amarillo and Lubbock should stop at the Scurry County Courthouse in Synder, Texas, named for famed buffalo hunter William Henry (Pete) Synder, and visit the statue of the bison dedicated to J. Wright Mooar, a "champion hunter of buffalo" in the Texas Panhandle.

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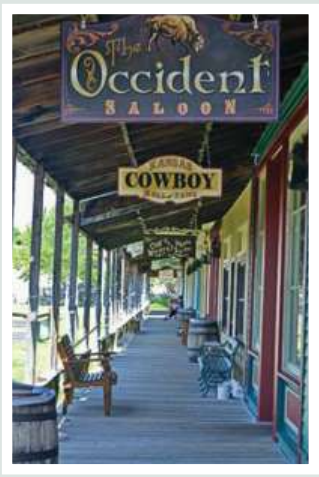
The civilian jail at the town of Fort Griffin, also called The Flat, is still intact.

– CANDY MOULTON –



The Boardwalk at the Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City, Kansas

– COURTESY BOOT HILL MUSEUM –

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Good Grub: Kate's, *Dodge City, KS*; **Sayakomarn's Thai & Lao Cuisine**, *Canyon, TX*; **Triple J Chophouse & Brew Company**, *Lubbock, TX*; **Cagle Steaks & BBQ**, *Lubbock*; **Los Cazadores Mexican Grill**, *Albany, TX*.

Lodging: Hampton Inn, *Dodge City, KS*; **Dodge House**, *Dodge City*; **Overton Hotel**, *Lubbock, TX*; **Courtyard Marriott**, *Abilene, TX*.

GOOD BOOKS

In Search of the Buffalo: The Story of J. Wright Mooar by Charles G. Anderson; ***Buffalo Days: Stories from J. Wright Mooar*** *(Texas Heritage Series)* by James Winford Hunt, author, and Robert F. Pace, editor; ***The Buffalo Hunters*** by Charles M. Robinson III; ***Heads, Hides and Horns: The Complete Buffalo Book*** by Larry Barsness; ***The Buffalo Hunters: The Hide Men*** by Mari Sandoz; ***Frontier Farewell: The 1870s and the End of the Old West*** by Garrett Wilson.

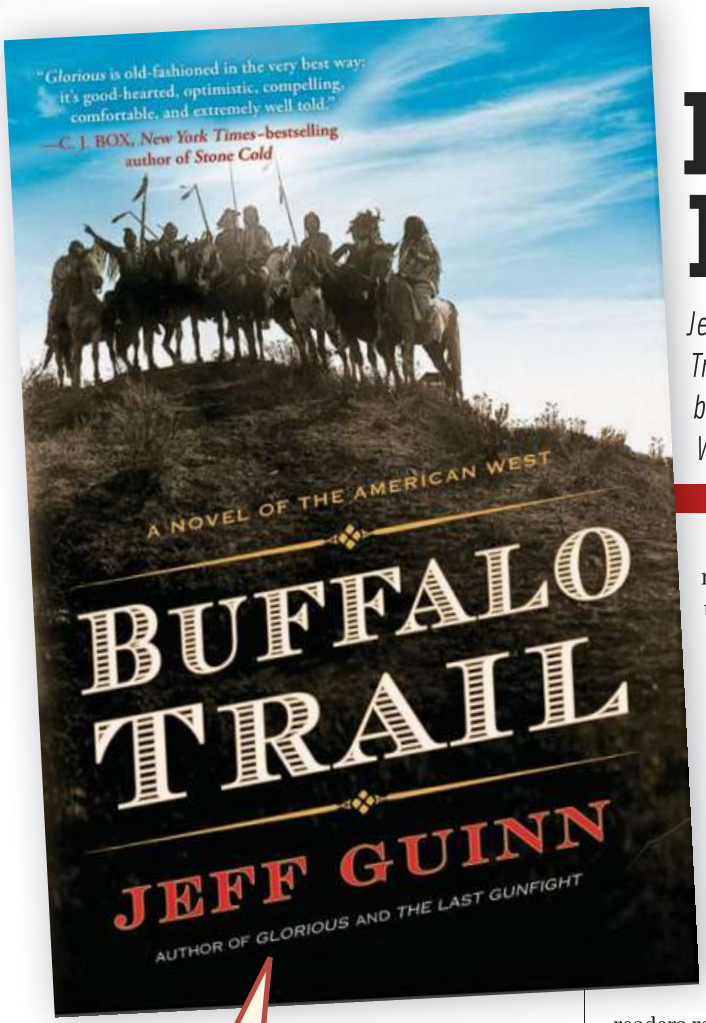
– COURTESY WARNER BROS. –

GOOD FILM & TV

The Thundering Herd (Paramount, 1933); ***Dodge City*** (Warner Bros., 1939); ***Union Pacific*** (Paramount, 1939); ***The Last Hunt*** (MGM, 1955); ***The Searchers*** (Warner Bros., 1956); ***How the West was Won*** (MGM, 1962); ***Dances with Wolves*** (Orion Pictures, 1990); ***Facing the Storm: The Story of the American Bison*** (PBS, Big Sky Film Institute, 2011).

WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK



Blood Brothers

Jeff Guinn's Cash McLendon fights to survive in Buffalo Trail, a Southwestern women's renaissance, a long-awaited biography of Wild Bill Wellman, an epic climax to an Old West trilogy and a scoundrel's final adventure.

"The People knew many ways to mutilate enemies without quite killing them on the spot, and Quanah was a master of them all."

ıe loneliness of greedy hide hunters, the courage of desperate men under attack and the anguish of a vanquished people fighting for their freedom converge on the harsh, sunburnt plains of the Texas Panhandle in 1873-'74 in Jeff Guinn's second volume of his Cash "C.M." McLendon series, *Buffalo Trail* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, $27). Guinn's hero, C.M., has drifted in, penniless, from the Arizona Territory (the setting from the first book, *Glorious*) to Dodge City, Kansas, where, like a latter-day Forest Gump, he is befriended by 20-year-old Bat Masterson and introduced to the hardscrabble life of a buffalo hide hunter and bone collector. Like in *Glorious*, Guinn expertly weaves the drama of Western history into his narrative. His adept, empathetic ability to bring voice to historical men and women of the West side-by-side with his fictional characters places the Texas author in a rarified group of authors including Jeff Shaara, Larry McMurtry, Loren Estleman and Lucia St. Clair Robson. In *Glorious*, readers received an introduction to Guinn's ability to integrate real-life characters such as Ike Clanton into his narrative. In *Buffalo Trail* the writer creates a dynamic parallel story between C.M.'s adventures as a hide hunter with pal Bat Masterson and mentor Billy

Buffalo Trail, the second volume in Jeff Guinn's Cash McLendon trilogy, places the Western saga's hero in 1873–'74 Dodge City, just in time for the Second Battle of Adobe Walls.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

(Left to right) Comanche leader Quanah Parker, Kiowa Chief Satanta and Bat Masterson are featured in Jeff Guinn's *Buffalo Trail*, a chronicle of the early days of Dodge City's buffalo hide hunters, the beginnings of the Red River War from the Southern Plains Indians' perspective and the Second Battle of Adobe Walls.

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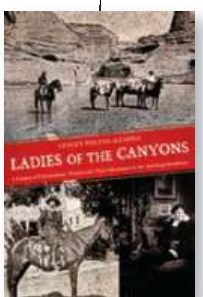
Dixon in Dodge City, and Comanche Chief Quanah Parker, his tribe and Indian allies caught between the Army and the buffalo men on the Southern Plains.

The strength of *Buffalo Trail* is Guinn's ability to bring voice to so many historical characters, both white and Indian, men and women, in a parallel storyline of C.M., his fictional hero, and Quanah Parker, the historic antagonist. Historians of Southern Plains Indians, the demise of the buffalo, the post-Civil War settlement of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, will agree that Guinn brilliantly weaves the life of C.M. into the dramatic real events. The Fort Worth-based author is especially at his best when he brings voice—and perspective—to the Plains Indians who on a daily basis are witness to the end of their natural and cultural world, with death and defeat the only options in their future. He writes, "The People knew many ways to mutilate enemies without quite killing them on the spot, and Quanah was a master of them all."

With his palette of wide vistas of post-Civil War Western history, Guinn's gritty ride through the Southern Plains from Dodge City to Adobe Walls on the cusp of the final conflict between the encroaching Americans and the Comanches and their allies, the Kiowas, Southern Cheyennes and Arapahos, will keep readers turning the pages and eagerly awaiting the next volume in the series. With C.M.'s Homeric adventure zig-zagging through the panoply of Western American history and characters, I am hopeful that Guinn will keep his hero in Kansas long enough to meet Dodge City's most famous law family, the Earps, before the lovelorn, lonesome fugitive hero C.M.—and the infamous brothers—head back to Arizona Territory and a date with destiny.

—Stuart Rosebrook



THE CALL OF THE CANYON

What do you get when you combine gutsy bravado, a genteel Victorian society background and the rugged backdrop of the Southwestern cultural landscape? You get a colorful mosaic of New Mexico and the Four Corners region during the early years of the 20th century. Lesley Poling-Kempes' *Ladies of the Canyons: A League of Extraordinary Women and Their Adventures in the American Southwest* (University of Arizona Press, $24.95) is a wonderful and inspiring story of women who wanted more to their lives than that set in their rather tedious, staid world. Women will love the book; and

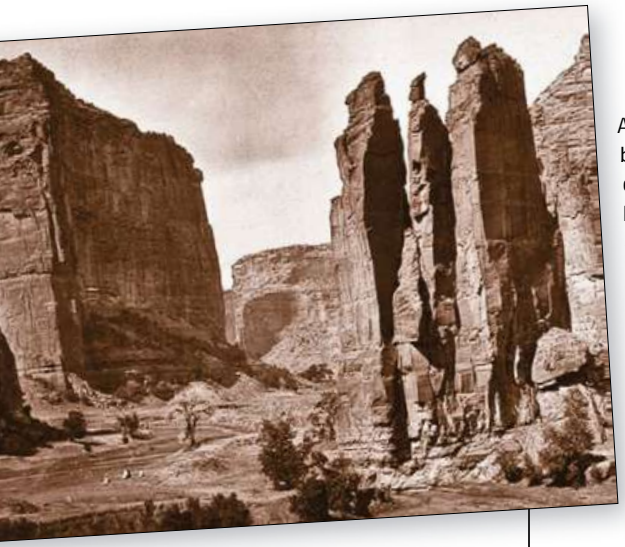
ROUGH DRAFTS

When the entertainment industry broke the story in July that AMC Networks was picking up the documentary series *The West* from **Robert Redford's** Sundance Productions and *Making of the Mob*'s Stephen David Entertainment, my hunch was confirmed: Hollywood executives and accountants were definitely watching television this spring and summer when **Bill O'Reilly's *Legends & Lies: The Real West, Justified, Hell On Wheels, Longmire* and *Texas Rising*** were receiving tons of press coverage. The 16-episode Redford-David series (which was at one time going to be a Discovery channel series in 2014-'15), will debut on the AMC Channel next summer in conjunction with the final episodes of *Hell on Wheels*.

The West will focus on the violent, tumultuous post-Civil War West outlaws, lawmen, cowboys and Indians of 1865 to 1890. The show will follow a production style similar to *Legends & Lies* with a mixture of documentary-style film, expert interviews and dramatic re-enactments. Not surprisingly, the series will take its crack shot at interpreting the lives and lesser-known stories of Western icons, including **Jesse James, Kit Carson, Billy the Kid, Crazy Horse, Wyatt Earp and Sitting Bull.** An added bonus will have interviews with numerous actors, including **Tom Selleck, Kiefer Sutherland, James Caan and Ed Harris.** Interestingly enough, AMC Networks also owns SundanceTV.

–Stuart Rosebrook

BUILDING YOUR WESTERN LIBRARY



According to author Lesley Poling-Kempes, Canyon de Chelly became a creative, inspiring crossroads of nature and the Navajo culture for women like Natalie Curtis Burlin and Alice Corbin Henderson, who first visited the famous canyon in 1913.

– COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA PRESS –

men can't help but admire the rare and admirable ladies who came west and never looked back. It is a fitting tribute to the land and peoples of the Southwest and those who challenged their own society, embraced and enriched their new wild canyon country and who thrived because of it.

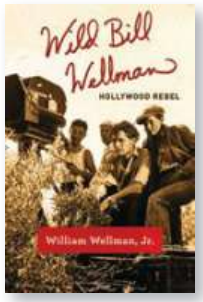
—*Lynda Sanchez, author of* Apache Legends & Lore of Southern New Mexico: From the Sacred Mountain

HIGH-FLYING WESTERN DIRECTOR

Director William Wellman's career as a filmmaker during the mogul-studio era is a portrait in motion picture history, captured intimately by his son William . in *Wild Bill Wellman: Hollywood Rebel* (Pantheon Books, $40). Wellman, whose films, beginning with the silent *Wings* in 1923, earned thirty-two Academy Award nominations and seven Oscars, is described by his son as a man who "never ran with the pack," a "maverick, never trailing behind,

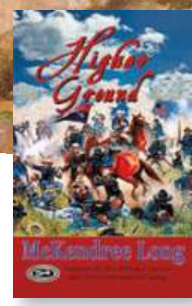
In *Wild Bill Wellman: Hollywood Rebel*, William Wellman Jr. intimately recounts his father's life and career as a director, including his determination in 1942–'43 to adapt Walter Van Tilburg Clark's novel *The Ox-Bow Incident* into a film starring Henry Fonda (left) and Dana Andrews (center).

– COURTESY 20TH CENTURY-FOX –



always pointing the way forward." A World War I flying ace, married five times, the fiercely independent Wellman was never afraid to use his fists to prove a point. In this book, he at last receives the credit he deserves for a more-than-honored place in motion picture history. Highly recommended.

—Jeb J. Rosebrook, screenwriter of Junior Bonner



The third and final installment in McKendree Long's Western trilogy *Higher Ground* concludes with a detailed dramatic recounting of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

– CHARLES M. RUSSELL/COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

EPIC WESTERN SAGA

Higher Ground (High Hill Press, $16.95) is the final installment of McKendree Long's historical fiction trilogy featuring ex-Confederate soldiers "Dobey" Walls and Jimmy "Boss" Melton. A dogged search for evil wrongdoers takes them across the West, where they happen across the likes of Bat Masterson and "Wild Bill" Hickok. The gem of this story is the reportage of the 1876 Little Big Horn battle which is well detailed, and told from the view of the Indian camps and the soldiers, giving the readers a "you are there" feel. Long's entertaining dialogue doesn't disappoint, albeit it's from many (maybe too many) characters.

—Monty McCord, author of Mundy's Law

BUILDING YOUR WESTERN LIBRARY

READING, WRITING AND RIDING WITH SPUR AWARD–WINNER ROD MILLER

Reading, writing and riding might be Rod Miller's life mantra. A fourth-generation Utah native, the former college and PRCA cowboy grew up in Goshen. His father was a working cowboy and ranch manager, and Rod spent many hours on horseback helping to manage the family's horses and cattle. When not working, he was reading, seldom without a book in his hand. Miller's favorite authors include John Steinbeck, Wallace Stegner, Cormac McCarthy, John McPhee, Charles Badger Clark and Wendell Berry.

Miller won his third Spur Award from the WWA in 2015. This time he was named Best Western Juvenile Fiction author for *Rawhide Robinson Rides the Range*. He has also earned Spurs for Western poetry and short fiction. When Miller is not at work on his latest novel, poem or non-fiction book, he is writing advertising and producing commercials, a vocation he has practiced since 1974. In 2015, Miller will debut three books: *The Lost Frontier: Momentous Moments in the Old West You May Have Missed* (TwoDot), *The Death of Delgado and Other Stories* (Pen-L Publishing) and *Rawhide Robinson Rides the Tabby Trail* (Five Star).

If you love good writing, Miller insists you put these five on your list to read:

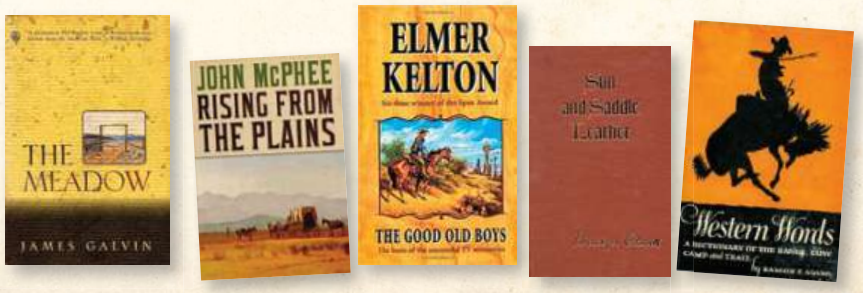
❶ ***The Meadow*** (James Galvin, Henry Holt): This book is best described as snapshots capturing a century in a remote, remarkable place—then shuffled, and viewed at random. Galvin, primarily a poet, wields exquisite language to make you feel the pains and pleasures of people whose attempts to tame wild country exemplify all of Western settlement.

❷ ***Rising from the Plains*** (John McPhee, Farrar, Straus and Giroux): One in a series of books chronicling the geology of North America, this book focuses on Wyoming, where plains rise to mountains. But it is also a history of a remote ranch and a ranch kid who became a geologist. McPhee is an outstanding writer, no matter his subject.

❸ ***The Good Old Boys*** (Elmer Kelton, Doubleday): Kelton never wrote a novel that's not worth reading. This one is among his very best. The author said its opening line—"For the last five or six days Hewey Calloway had realized he needed a bath."—is the best he ever wrote. The book only gets better from there.

❹ ***Sun and Saddle Leather*** (Charles Badger Clark, Chapman & Grimes): Few versifiers, ever, have packed as much poetic punch into a pen as did Badger Clark. His words sing, his imagery radiates, his stories resonate, and his parables endure. Once South Dakota's poet laureate, this writer's extraordinary tale-telling and mastery of literary technique set him apart among cowboy poets.

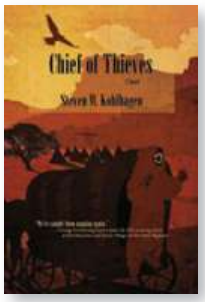
❺ ***Western Words*** (Ramon Adams, University of Oklahoma): For me, language is at the heart of what makes the American West unique. Adams captures and chronicles cowboy lingo, and anyone who wants to write "Western" would do well to consult him. Even casual readers will enjoy this dictionary, if approaching it as a collection of short stories.



Steven W. Kohlhagen weaves the lives of (left to right) George, Tom and Libby Custer into his fictional narrative—*Chief of Thieves*, based on the military—and criminal life—of Lt. Augustyn P. Damours.

CUSTER'S LAST STAND

Steven Kohlhagen's *Chief of Thieves* (Sunstone Press, $24.95), based on 32 historical characters and 12 fictional ones, is a saga that crisscrosses the American West between 1862 and 1876. Two con artists—Auggie, an army deserter, and Lily, a former prostitute—seek to use their stolen wealth to buy a ranch. Their plans survive attacks from the Navajo, Paiute, Modoc, Cheyenne, and Sioux tribes. Finally they establish their ranch in Wyoming. The climax of the story, with Auggie as a scout for Custer, is the Little Big Horn. Here, Kohlhagen achieves a masterpiece of historical fiction. His account of the battle reads as if he were there.



—James J. Hester, author of Early Navajo Migrations and Acculturation in the Southwest

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BY HENRY C. PARKE

The Australian Jesse James

A new Bushranger Western shares its take on frontier Australia's most prolific career criminal.

Roaming New South Wales during the 1860s, Ben Hall led an informal group of criminals responsible for the largest gold robbery in Australia's history—equivalent to $4 million today. Jack Martin (far left) plays Hall in *The Legend of Ben Hall,* due out in early 2016, and is shown in a side-by-side comparison with the real-life Hall (left).

– BY MATTHEW HOLMES –

Can a film be a Western if the story takes place on the other side of the globe?

Writer-Director Matthew Holmes makes a convincing case. "In the 'Wild West' period, Australia and America had the same things happening at the same time—gold rushes, outlaws, lawmen, the frontier, conflicts with the indigenous people, rebellions—the list goes on and on," he says.

While the U.S. had its outlaws, Australia had its bushrangers, and Holmes has filmed the life of one of Australia's most famous, in *The Legend of Ben Hall.* "Ned Kelly is the most famous; Ben Hall is probably second—but he was far more prolific than Kelly when you compare criminal careers," Holmes says. "The Hall Gang roamed and robbed for over three years, and Hall committed over 600 major crimes: highway robbery, mail coach robbery, store robbery, horse 'borrowing,' arson, assault and gunfights."

> "His descent is fascinating, as he was somewhat a reluctant criminal."

Before Hall was born, his English father and Irish mother were convicted of minor thefts and sent to New South Wales, where they met as convicts and married.

"Ben Hall distanced himself from his father. By age 23, he was a successful landowner and cattleman, with a wife and son, well-regarded by all. However, the 1862 gold rush directly hit his area and brought the criminal element," Holmes says.

"Hall had no criminal record until his life fell apart—his wife ran away with his friend and took their young son with her," he adds. "He fell into depression and abandoned his work, becoming the friend of a highly-successful career criminal called Frank Gardiner, who lured him in. His descent is fascinating, as he was somewhat a reluctant criminal."

Often described as an Australian Jesse James or Billy the Kid, the Kid comparison seems unfair. "Ben Hall himself never killed anyone, even though he was involved in numerous gunfights and scrapes. He had a very firm position against taking human life unless his own was threatened," Holmes says. "Unfortunately, his companions didn't share that code and they killed policemen, for which Hall was considered an accomplice."

The range of the "Gentleman Bushranger" was vast. "The state of New South Wales is larger than California and New Mexico combined; the Hall Gang roamed over 20,000 square miles," Holmes says. "They were superb bushmen and riders, and since they were constantly stealing racehorses, catching them out in the wilderness was virtually impossible."

As with American outlaws, bushrangers were hard to catch in part because they

Gang member John Gilbert (actor Jamie Coffa, at left) helped Ben Hall (Jack Martin, at right) conduct one of the most prolific periods of bushranging, robbing villages and mail coaches, and stealing racehorses. Under Hall, the gang committed more than 600 crimes during the height of the Lachlan River gold rush of 1862 until 1865.

–BY KIM DICKSON –

enjoyed popular support. "Hall had a lot of allies who knew him before he was a criminal, and respected him. The bushrangers became 'poster boys' for those who hated the harsh and corrupt British system. One coach service from Sydney to the goldfields had a timetable with the clause, 'Ben Hall permitting,' on it," Holmes says.

Desperate to catch Hall, the Australian government passed an astonishing law in 1865 aimed directly at him. "The dreaded 'Felons Apprehension Act' declared Ben Hall [and his accomplices] John Gilbert and John Dunn outlaws who could be killed by any person, at any time, without question. This act was only brought out again against bushranger Ned Kelly and gang 13 years later," Holmes says.

The Legend of Ben Hall does not attempt to tell Hall's entire story. Holmes clarifies: "Our film focuses on the last nine months of Hall's life, when his criminal career was at its most critical and conflicted. It's jam-packed with action, adventure, tragedy, betrayal and romance."

Most who have tried crowdfunding to finance their films have failed. But Holmes successfully raised money through a Kickstarter campaign to shoot a trailer of *The Legend of Ben Hall*, and he used the trailer to raise the money for the feature.

"If you can make the public love the project as you do—so much that

The brave, but doomed, constable Samuel Nelson (Gerrard Woodward, armed) and his eldest son, Frederick (Caleb McClure), march off to confront the gang.

– BY KIM DICKSON –

Matthew Holmes (in cap) utilized Kickstarter to help finance his film. Here, the writer-director discusses a scene with his Ben Hall star, Jack Martin, on location in Spring Hill, Victoria, Australia.

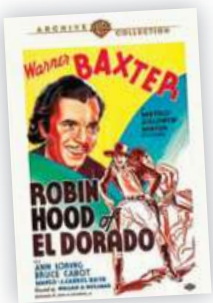
– BY KIM DICKSON –

they are willing to dig into their pockets now to ensure it gets made—then you have a chance," Holmes says. "When they make it a beg for people's charity, they inevitably fail.

"We've attempted to make an epic Western on a tiny budget. And because this is set 150 years ago, nothing from that time period exists anymore, so we've had to build all our own sets, props and source costumes and weapons that are period accurate, which is never easy or cheap."

While the Western is not a documentary, "Authenticity has been my biggest goal," Holmes admits. "I've got Australia's leading authority on Ben Hall as my script consultant. It's risky sticking to history because it makes the story unpredictable and unconventional. But it makes the characters very three-dimensional. I think it's the reason people will embrace the movie, the fact that it is so close to history."

If *The Legend of Ben Hall* is a success with audiences in early 2016, Holmes plans to make it part of a trilogy. The other subjects would be bushranger John Vane and Hall's criminal mentor Frank Gardiner, who ended up in California, running a saloon in San Francisco's Barbary Coast.



DVD REVIEW

ROBIN HOOD OF EL DORADO

(Warner Archives; $21.99) The Oscar-winning Cisco Kid, Warner Baxter, stars as farmer-turned-bandit Joaquin Murrieta, in 1936's *Robin Hood of El Dorado.* Though MGM sold the movie as a sentimental romance, Director William Wellman's film is an engrossing tragedy of Shakespearean dimension, an unflinching indictment of the disenfranchisement of Mexicans whose property was usurped when California became part of the United States. Costarring are Bruce Cabot, Margo, and J. Carrol Naish as a fellow bandito.

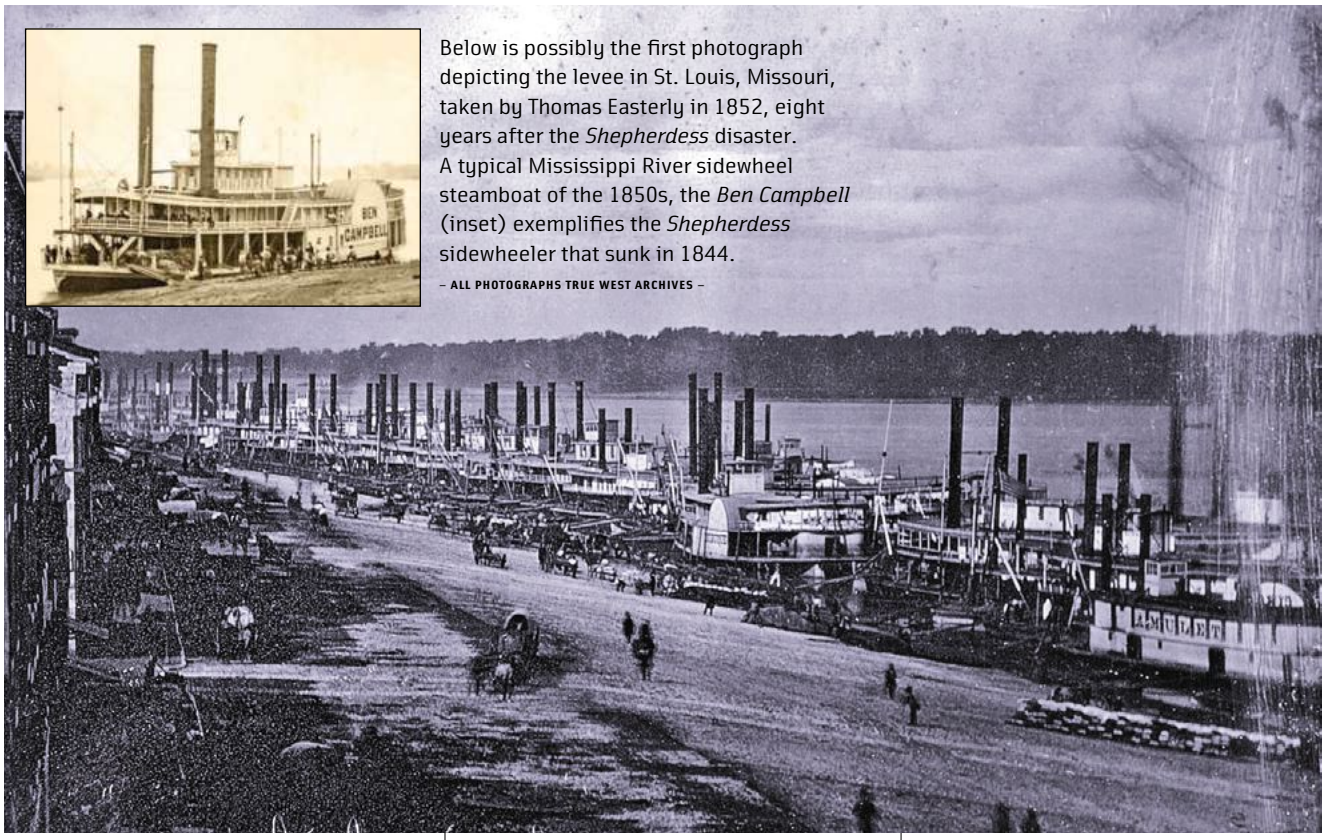
Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, California, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: *HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com*

SURVIVAL OUT WEST

BY TERRY A. DEL BENE

The Sinking Ship Survivor

PASSENGER ROBERT BULLOCK FOUND THE HERO WITHIN HIM.



Below is possibly the first photograph depicting the levee in St. Louis, Missouri, taken by Thomas Easterly in 1852, eight years after the *Shepherdess* disaster. A typical Mississippi River sidewheel steamboat of the 1850s, the *Ben Campbell* (inset) exemplifies the *Shepherdess* sidewheeler that sunk in 1844.

– ALL PHOTOGRAPHS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

The American West begins in St. Louis, Missouri. Many entering the frontier started their journeys by riding on steamboats to jumping-off areas in Missouri. Riverboat disasters were all too frequent.

On the frigid night of January 3, 1844, the *Shepherdess* was steaming upstream roughly three miles from St. Louis, its destination. Steamboats of the period had private accommodations for those able to pay, while general passengers were provided separate women's and gentlemen's cabins. Most of the roughly 70 passengers shared these two parlors on the first deck. By 11:00 p.m. many of the ladies and gents had retired for bed. In the men's parlor, a few gentlemen sat around a stove for warmth.

THE PEACEFUL NIGHT WAS RENT BY A LOUD SCRAPING AND THE SOUNDS OF CRACKING TIMBERS.

The air was filled with the sounds now familiar to the passengers—chugging of the engines, churning of water, water slapping against the bow, creaking of timbers, people coughing and the noises of livestock on the deck.

The peaceful night was suddenly rent by a loud scraping and the sounds of cracking timbers. The boat had hit a snag of timber in the river. After a brief pause, the air resounded with alarms, screaming children

HISTORY IN ART

BY ILLUSTRATOR ANDY THOMAS

I show the moment the boat hit the second snag and tossed Robert Bullock and others into the Mississippi River. The second snag caused the boat to momentarily list severely to its larboard side. The steamboat is modeled after artist Gary Lucy's painting of the recovered steamboat *Arabia*; it was of similar tonnage and close to the same time period as the *Shepherdess* (a contemporaneous newspaper engraving depicted the *Shepherdess* as a sidewheeler).

Colonel Joseph H. Wood's museum toured and down the Mississippi River until the Ci War interrupted boat travel. Robert Bullo rescued Wood's "Ohio Fat Girl." Waino ar Plutano were two other "exhibits" from Co Wood's museum that opened in Chicag Illinois. They are shown at right, at about age 50—they each weighed 45 pounds.

and the moaning of the stricken vessel as it broke into splinters.

The boat lurched and filled with freezing water, which reached the lower deck in less than two minutes. Captain Abram P. Howell entered the ladies' cabin and assured them they were safe. Afterwards, he was washed overboard while ringing an alarm bell. Three minutes after the crash, the boat was flooding to the upper decks, and the passengers were scrambling for safety by any available means.

Passenger Robert Bullock, of Maysville, Kentucky, immediately responded to the crash by going from stateroom to stateroom, looking for women and children to evacuate. He took his fellow passengers to the hurricane roof, which, by this time, was the only part of the *Shepherdess* above water. With many of the women in their night clothing, the samaritan surrendered his fine wool coat to one lady during his several rescue missions. Included among those he rescued was Col. Joseph H. Wood's "Ohio Fat Girl," an entertainer in a traveling "freak show." The eight-year-old girl weighed roughly 250 pounds.

When the *Shepherdess*, by this time powerless and drifting downriver, hit a second snag, the impact threw Bullock overboard. He swam the dark, freezing currents and found footing on the Illinois side. There, Bullock found two women who had been landed by a skiff, but were freezing. As the ladies drifted off to sleep, he feared that slumber would bring death to them, so he struggled to keep the suffering women awake. He helped the pair get to safety at Cahokia Bend.

Forty persons, including Capt. Howell and one of his 11 children, reportedly perished in the accident. Only the efforts of unsung heroes, like Bullock, kept the death toll from being higher.

Terry A. Del Bene is a former Bureau of Land Management archaeologist and the author of *Donner Party Cookbook* and the novel *'Dem Bon'z*.

The riverboat captain gave a ridiculous assurance of safety in the women's cabin, which may have looked like this one, from the 1878–86 *J.M. White* sidewheeler.

HOW TO KEEP WARM AFTER NEARLY DROWNING

The sunken ship put all of those who went into the water into a serious survival situation. After swimming to land, Robert Bullock found himself keeping two ladies alive while awaiting rescue. The nature of 19th-century clothing helped, as everyone was likely wearing woolens. Even when wet, such clothes retain some of their insulating properties.

Bullock waking his fellow castaways once on land might have been prudent. If they were hypothermic, keeping them active was good; otherwise, it could have had negative effects. His best option was to keep the survivors huddled together to share body heat.

Bullock greatly added to the risk of his fellow passengers by forcing them to strike off into the dark to find help. This survival tale fortunately ended happily, despite Bullock's risky choice.

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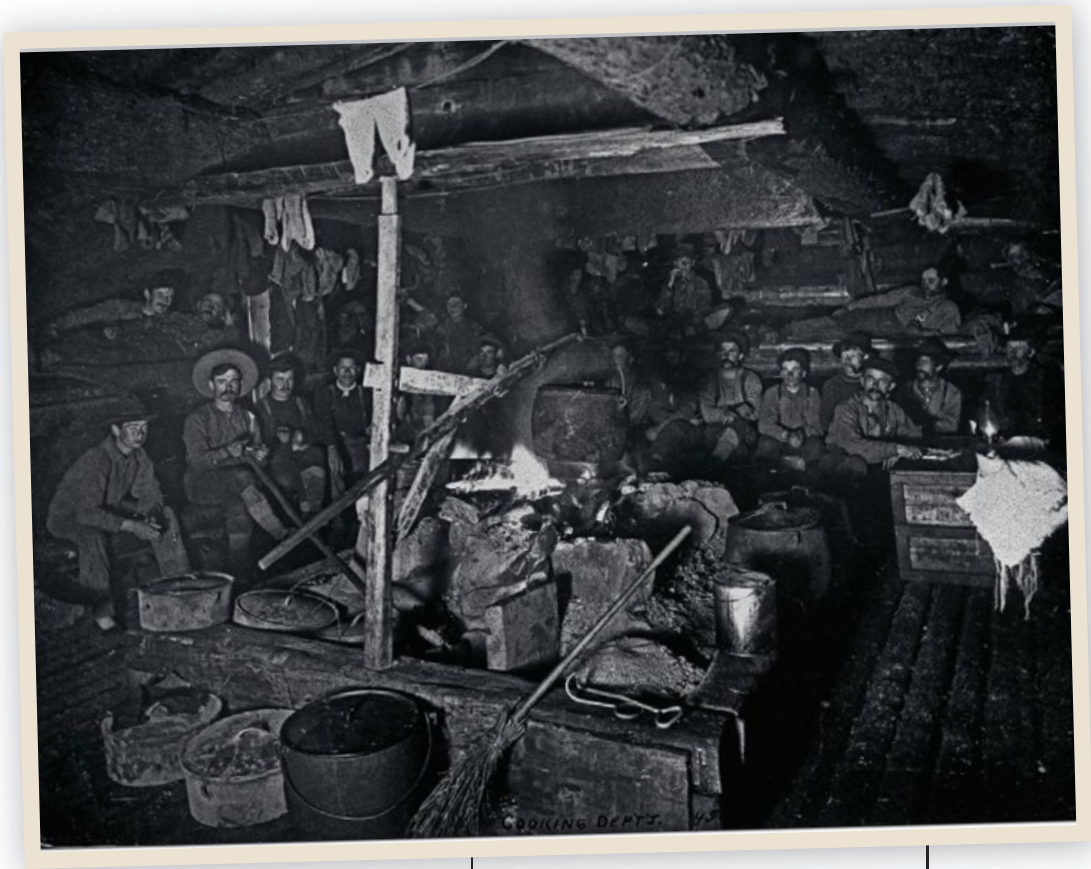
BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Bunkhouse Belly Cheaters

Cooks who fed cowboys on the trail often provided comfort at home too.



This early 1900s cook shanty in Canada gives us an idea of the bunkhouse environs frontier cowboys enjoyed on our side of the border.

– COURTESY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA / WILLIAM MORELL HARMER COLLECTION, PA-106194 –

Bunkhouses served as the cowboy's residence when he wasn't out on roundups or driving cattle to market. His fellow cowboys became family. The cook who fed them all on the trail usually also fed them on the ranch. (Unless the cowboy worked for a smaller ranch that provided his living quarters; then he ate his meals with the rancher's family in the main house.)

The bunkhouse was meager, but provided a bed, shelter and meals. For a trail cowboy, these offerings were a welcome change, as Edward F. Jones, an Indian Territory-born herder, revealed while recalling his cowboy days working at the BO Ranch in Texas:

> "Come a-running you snakes, and get it."

"When I hit the BO outfit, I thought I was a regular.... John Petrie was the top screw at the time, and it was him I hit up for a nesting place.

"It was late of day, and he said, 'Well, kid, cool your saddle and put your nose in the chuck trough. After you have attended to those duties, we'll gab a spell about the matter.'

'It was not long 'til the belly cheater yelled, 'Come a-running you snakes, and get it.' That call had a pleasant sound because I had nothing but a Spanish meal since morning and was gaunt.

"The cookie gave us broiled steak, baked beans, soda sinkers, stewed prunes and all the Texas butter, sop and black coffee we desired. After I had packed the chuck til my tapeworm quit yelling, the top screw says to me, 'Let's adjourn to the dog house where we can chaw the rag a spell.' We moseyed over to the bunkhouse and sat down while he began to get my history."

Colorado cowboy George Stiers left us with an image of a bunkhouse at meal time, when he remembered his cattle years at the Brand Ranch owned by the Eddy brothers near Slidell: "We had a large bunkhouse to sleep in when not out on the range too far to get in. There was a big shed with long tables where we sit down to line our flue [eat]. Pat Lawson was the chief cook and a good

belly cheater who spent years with the outfit. He always went with the chuckwagon and left his helpers at the main joint."

In the 1880s, the beef-and-beans chuck at the RR Ranch in Denton County, Texas, was served along with a guilty pleasure. "The cookie would regularly fix up something for our sweet tooth, such as fried pies made from dried fruit, pudding of some sort and, once in a while, a cake," cowboy George Martin recalled.

For a tasty treat the cowboy in your life may appreciate, try the included 1897 recipe for apricot fried pies.

Sherry Monahan has penned *Mrs. Earp: Wives & Lovers of the Earp Brothers*; *California Vines, Wines & Pioneers; Taste of Tombstone*; *The Wicked West* and *Tombstone's Treasure*. She's appeared on the History Channel in *Lost Worlds* and other shows.

APRICOT FRIED PIES

6 ounces dried apricots or cherries
¾ cup sugar
1 pie crust
Oil for frying

In a medium saucepan, add just enough water to cover the dried fruit. Bring to a boil over high heat and cook until the water evaporates. Add the sugar and cook for another two or three minutes. Remove from the heat and mash. Set aside to cool.

Roll out pie crust to one-quarter-inch thickness, and cut into six-inch circles. Place a tablespoon of the fruit on one side. Moisten the circle with water and fold it in half. Use a fork to seal the edges.

Fill a stockpot with half an inch of oil, and heat over medium-high heat. Test the oil by adding a small piece of leftover pie crust. If the oil bubbles, then it is ready. Gently add the pies, three at a time, with tongs. Cook one side for about two minutes, and then turn over and cook until golden. Drain on paper towels. Caution: Filling will be hot.

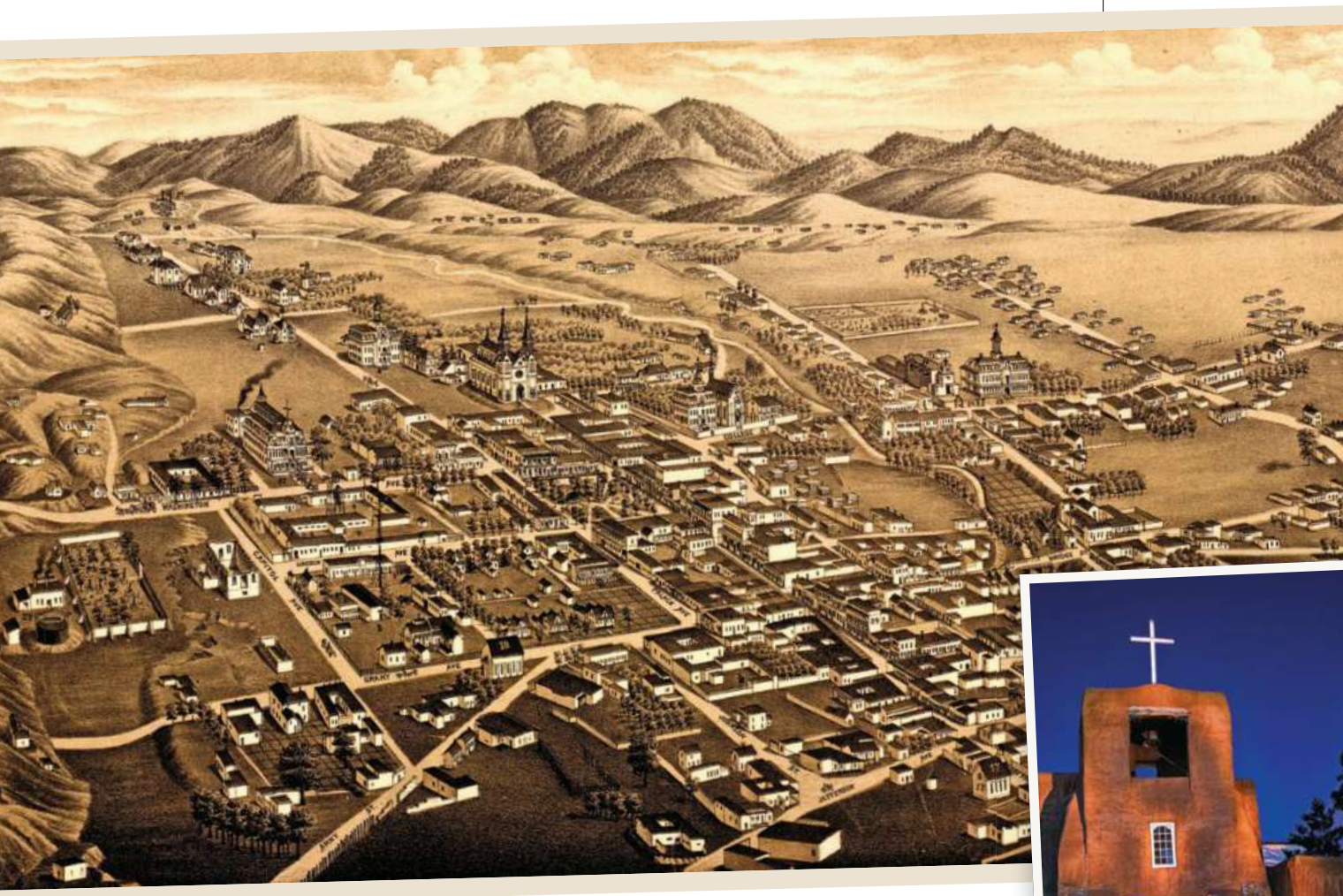
Recipe adapted from Henry Scammell's 1897 edition of *Cyclopedia of Valuable Receipts*

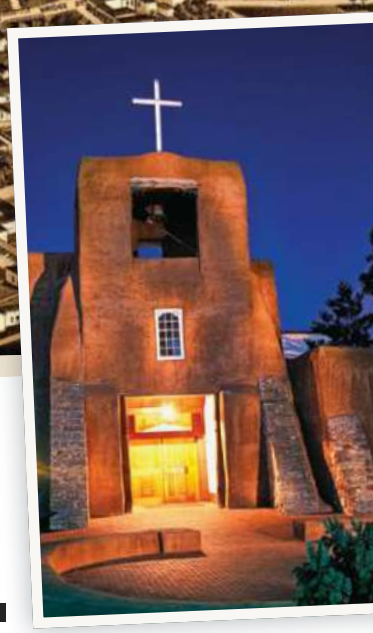
BY JOHN STANLEY

City of Destiny

Santa Fe, New Mexico, is the oldest state capital in the United States.

Gen. Stephen Kearny captured Santa Fe in 1846, early in the Mexican-American War.





In 1879, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad arrived in the territorial capital of New Mexico, supplanting the 58-year-old Santa Fe Trail as the primary commercial route to the city. With over 6,600 residents in 1882, *La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asís* (the town's original full name) had grown nearly 40 percent since 1870 and was the territory's center of culture, commerce and government.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

By the time the Pilgrims got around to settling Plymouth in 1620, Santa Fe had been a bustling community for more than a decade. For over four centuries now, the grand old city at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains has been northern New Mexico's center of government and culture, its distinctive Spanish-Pueblo adobe-style architecture a tangible expression of its rich history and multicultural traditions.

That's no accident. "Back in 1912, the city fathers realized that Santa Fe was starting to look like any other town," says John Pen La Farge, president of the Old Santa Fe Association, established in 1926 to preserve the town's historical sites, structures and cultural traditions. "So they began to emphasize the Spanish architecture and the cultural aspects that sets the town apart." Thanks to their efforts, today's city reflects its heritage in a hundred ways.

Santa Fe's roots run deep—the Ogapoge Pueblo, established around the 10th century, once stood on the site of today's Plaza. The Spanish arrived in 1607; the region's second provincial governor founded Santa Fe in 1610. When Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, Santa Fe became the territorial capital.

That same year, Missouri trader William Becknell established the 1,000-mile-long Santa Fe Trail from Franklin, Missouri, to

Santa Fe. You can experience a section of the historic route today with a drive along the Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway, part of which traverses the northeastern part of New Mexico.

Gen. Stephen Kearny captured Santa Fe in 1846, early in the Mexican-American War. Afterwards, the town was formally ceded to the U.S.

Like many places in New Mexico, Santa Fe has a Billy the Kid connection. Billy's mother, Catherine McCarty, married William Antrim (who became Billy's stepfather), at the Presbyterian Church on Grant Avenue on March 1, 1873. Not long afterwards the family moved to Silver City, but Billy returned in late 1880 to serve a few months in jail. A plaque several blocks west of the Plaza tells the story.

Founded in 1610, the Chapel of San Miguel is the oldest church structure in the United States. Numerous restorations through the centuries, including its adobe exterior between 2008–'10, have maintained the church's unadorned beauty.

– CHRIS CORRIE/COURTESY SANTA FE CVB –

The Palace of the Governors, the center of government and city commerce since 1610, is the perfect place to shop from local artisans after touring the museums, galleries and restaurants of the adjacent Santa Fe Plaza.

– CHRIS CORRIE/COURTESY SANTA FE CVB/ LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Community leaders have worked tirelessly to transform the historic Santa Fe Railyard into one of the city's most popular cultural, commercial and social districts.

– SETH ROFFMAN/COURTESY SANTA FE CVB –

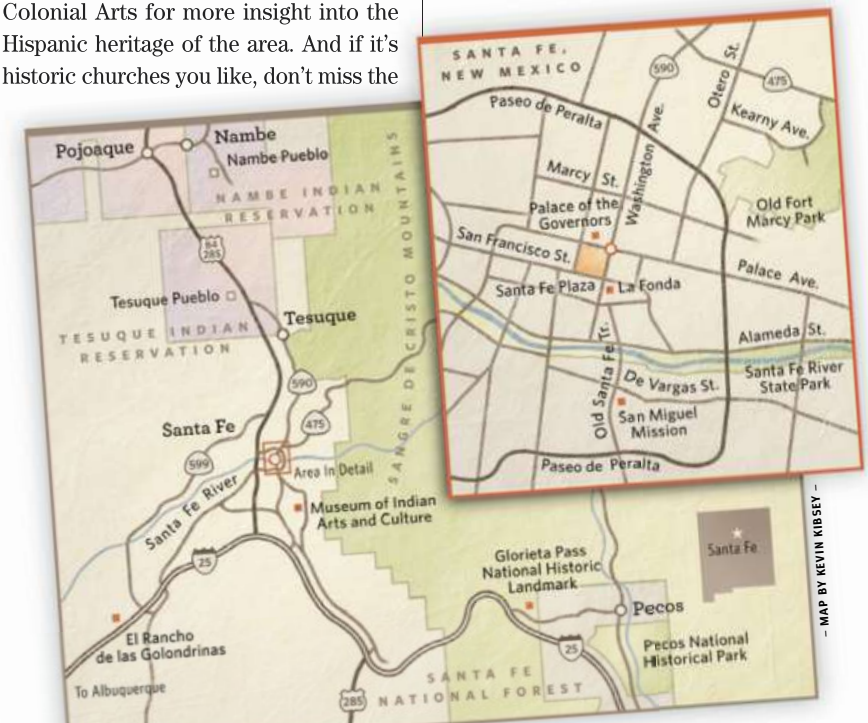
For an overview of the town, start at the Palace of the Governors, built in 1610 to serve as the regional center of government. The Palace is the oldest public building in the United States. Next door you'll find the New Mexico History Museum, where you'll want to check out the "Santa Fe Found" exhibit, which examines the earliest days of the city. While you're in the Plaza, you can shop for authentic Indian goods at the outdoor Mercado, or drop by the La Fonda, built in 1922 on the same site where other inns have stood since the town's founding.

For museum-goers, Santa Fe is a kind of paradise. Interested in Indian art and history? Check out the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, then drop by the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian. Visit the Museum of Spanish Colonial Arts for more insight into the Hispanic heritage of the area. And if it's historic churches you like, don't miss the San Miguel Chapel, the country's oldest church, built around 1610. You'll also want to stop by the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, begun in the 1850s, and the Loretto Chapel, with its "miraculous" staircase.

In addition to the renowned Fiesta de Santa Fe (first celebrated in 1712), the town hosts a number of festivals and celebrations. Summer events include the Rodeo de Santa Fe and Parade, the Santa Fe Indian Market, the Traditional Spanish Market and the Summer Festival, Frontier Days & Horses of the West.

After a hard day on the history trail, kick back and relax at the Santa Fe Railyard, a vibrant commercial and social district.

John Stanley



– MAP BY KEVIN KIBSEY –

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

– CHRIS CORRIE/COURTESY SANTA FE CVB –

Stop by the Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Bureau to learn your way around the town's historic and cultural sites, then hit the road to experience some nearby attractions.

SantaFe.org

Pecos National Historical Park

Pecos Pueblo dates back to 1100 and once housed more than 2,000 people. You'll also find the remains of a Spanish mission, built in 1619, on the grounds.

NPS.gov

Indian Pueblos

Pueblo Indians have lived in northern New Mexico for centuries. There are 19 pueblos in modern New Mexico; several—the Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso and Tesuque, just to name a few—are within 30 minutes of Santa Fe.

IndianPueblo.org

El Rancho de las Golondrinas

Docents dressed in period clothing show what 18th- and 19th-century colonial life was like at this renowned living history establishment. Some of the buildings date from the early 1700s, when the site was a stop along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the Royal Road from Mexico City to a pueblo several miles north of Santa Fe.

Golondrinas.org

Glorieta Pass National Historic Landmark

In 1862, Union forces effectively put an end to Confederate ambitions in the New Mexico Territory at Glorieta Pass. The visitor center at the Pecos National Historical Park has information about tours.

NPS.gov

This grizzly photograph shows the posse that brought outlaw Ned Christie to justice. In it, they pose with Christie's dead body on a board, holding his 1873 Winchester rifle. With the exception of one man, the posse members are all armed with '73 and 1886 Winchesters, and a couple appear also to be packing 1873 Colt Peacemakers. The seated man in the foreground at left holds a .45-70 single-shot 1873 Springfield "trapdoor" rifle—which, despite its lack of rapid fire, boasted one heckuva wallop at long range.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

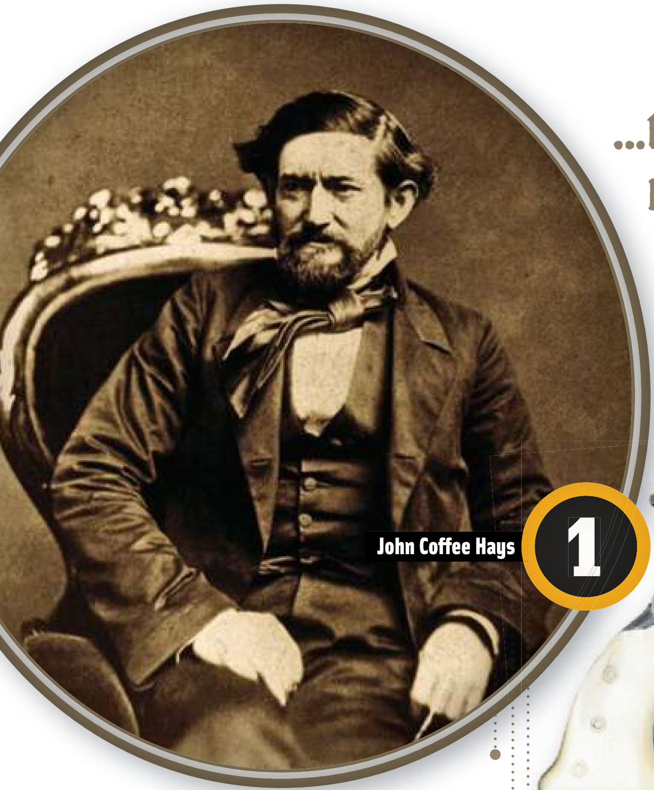
By Phil Spangenberger

22 Guns THAT WON THE WEST!

Armed and dangerous shootists used a double-deuce of firearms when the West was young and restless!

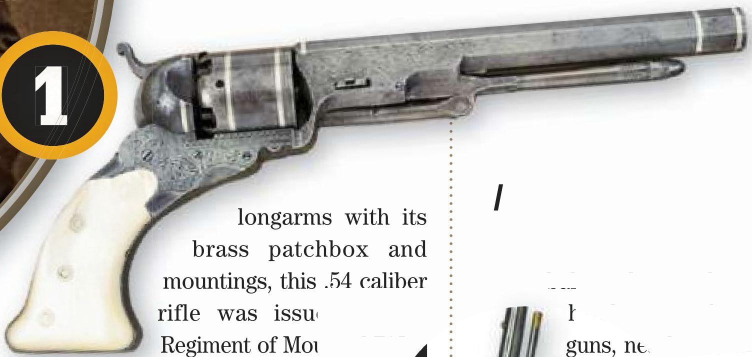
The "Gun That Won the West" is a subject that many firearms and Old West aficionados love to discuss and debate. Was the so-called West-winning gun given this coveted title because of the great numbers in which it was produced, or for the work it accomplished? Or was it simply because of who used it during those tumultuous times known as the Wild West? Although some firearms manufacturers advertise their lead-dispensing products as having rightfully earned that distinguished title, such a claim is not to be taken as gospel. While some folks feel that a single model firearm was most responsible for taming our raw frontier in the late 19th century—such as the 1873 Winchester repeater, 1874 Sharps buffalo rifle, double-barreled shotgun, or perhaps The Peacemaker, the legendary 1873 Colt Single Action Army revolver—most serious students of the American West agree that it was not a single model gun or type of firearm that "won the West." Rather, they believe it was an assortment of rifles, shotguns and handguns, in the hands of a diverse and colorful crowd of men and women, that brought both violence and law and order to our Western territories.

While there were hundreds of different makes and models of firearms used to tame the frontier, let's take a brief look at a double-deuce—just 22—of the more famous and infamous guns from the Old West, along with some of the good, and the bad, men and women who painted the canvas of America's Wild West in such bold and vivid colors.



...there were hundreds of different makes and models of firearms used to tame the frontier.

According to Texas Ranger John Coffee Hays, "Without your pistols [five-shot Colt Paterson (below)] we would not have had the confidence to have undertaken such daring adventur...
– PHOTO COURTESY ...



1 / Colt Paterson Revolver

Patented in 1836 and manufactured circa 1837 or 1838 until around 1840, the Paterson Colt was the first practical "revolving pistol," and revolutionized handguns for all time. Despite its failure as Samuel Colt's first firearms business venture, this percussion five-shooter gained fame when it was put to deadly use against the Comanches by the early Texas Rangers, most notably by Ranger John Coffee Hays when he used a pair of them to successfully hold off an overwhelming party of Comanches in 1841, during what became known as Hays' Big Fight at Enchanted Rock. The Paterson went on to see service in Florida's Second Seminole War (1835-1842), the Mexican War (1846-1848) and during the California Gold Rush. The .36 caliber Paterson, with barrels up to 12 inches long, earned the sobriquet of the "Texas Paterson."

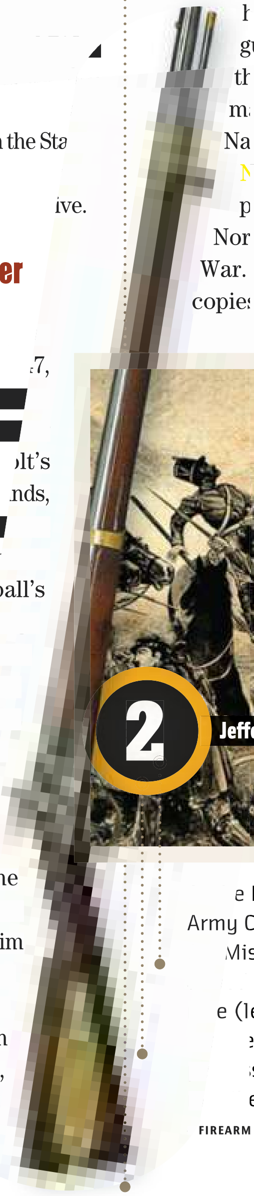
2 / U.S. Model 1841 Rifle

More commonly known as the "Mississippi Rifle" because of its use by Jefferson Davis's Mississippi volunteers in the Mexican War, this handsome percussion muzzle-loader was also known in its time as the Windsor, Whitney or Yager (adopted from the German word *jaeger* for hunter). Considered one of the more handsome of military percussion longarms with its brass patchbox and mountings, this .54 caliber rifle was issu... Regiment of Mou... in the 1840s (la... cavalry) and favored by C... sharpshooters in the War Between the Sta... Buffalo Bill Cody claimed to h... and used one during an 1850s ca... ive.

3 / 1847 Colt Walker Revolver

Although only around ... revolvers were ever produced i... 7, too late to have much impact [redacted] Mexican War, and despite its n[redacted] of mechanical deficiencies, ... lt's largest six-shooter, weighing 4 p... nds, 9 ounces unloaded, rema[redacted] milestone in handgun develop... This behemoth .44 cap and ball's power, accuracy and great r... helped spread the word of Col. C... "repeating pistols," and put h... back in the gun business afte... Patent Arms Manufactu... Company (manufacturing t... Paterson revolver) failed ... 1842. Texas Ranger Capt... Sam Walker helped desi... he Walker as an improveme... Paterson. Colt personally ... im a pair of Walker Colts, v... used effectively before ... killed while leading his ... in the battle of Huamantla, ..., in October 1847.

[redacted]the best ... lling and ... ball six-guns, ne... million of ... th... lvers were m... een 1850 and 1873. Na... e Republic of Texas ... as one of the more p... idearms—with both Nor... outh—during the Civil War. ... derates made several copie... uthern troops.) By the



...e Battle of Buena Vista, U.S. Army Col. Jefferson Davis led the Mississippi Mounted Rifles, with the U.S. Model 1841 ...e (left) to victory against ...exican army, earning the ...sion muzzle-loader the ...er "Mississippi Rifle."
FIREARM & ILLUSTRATION–TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

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2007 SASS GUN OF THE YEAR

The Smoke Wagon

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Exclusively from Taylor's & Co., The Smoke Wagon is a second-generation, stagecoach-style, single-action revolver. It boasts a low-profile hammer and widerstyle sights, which allow the user to acquire sighting faster, without cocking the pistol. It also features a blue finish with a case-hardened frame and a thin, richly detailed, checkered grip for comfort and improved aim. All of the previous features are available on both standard and deluxe edition models. The deluxe edition model also includes custom tuning; custom hammer and base pin springs; trigger pull at three pounds; jig-cut, positive angles on all triggers and sears for crisp, reliable action; a coil-loaded hand; and wire bolt spring. Manufactured with forged frame.

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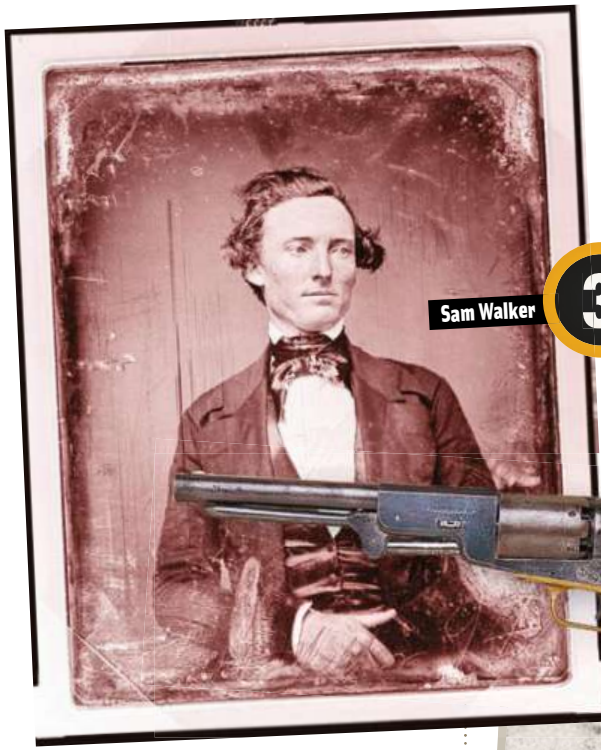

Sam Walker 3

Gun manufacturer Sam Colt worked closely with his customers, and Texas Ranger Sam Walker (left) provided design modifications directly to Colt for the .36 caliber Paterson. The ranger's modifications led to Colt naming his new .44 cap and ball revolver the Walker.

– PHOTO-COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/FIREARM-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

of them in his fifth and final Western exploration. The sporting model rifles were used by the early buffalo hunters and both models were also made as shotguns.

6 / Colt's Dragoon Revolvers

More than 21,000 of Colt's first, second and third models were turned out between 1848 and 1860, with their massive, heavy and powerful "revolving horse pistols" especially favored by Western horse soldiers and civilians alike. A goodly number of these big six-shooters made their way to the California gold camps with miners as well as by bandit Joaquin Murrieta and his men, and later by California outlaw Tiburcio Vasquez. Others saw service with the Texas Rangers, and pistoleer "Wild Bill" Hickok was known to have owned one and may have used it in 1865 to kill Dave Tutt in Springfield, Missouri.

7 / 1860 Colt Army Revolver

The 1860 Colt Army was the primary revolver used by federal troops during the Civil War with about 200,500 produced from 1860

1870s many Navies were converted to take .38 caliber metallic cartridges and for decades the Colt Navy was one of the most popular handguns in the West. Known as the favored six-gun of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, other noted users include Col. Robert E. Lee, during his service with the 2nd U.S. Cavalry in Texas in the 1850s; John Wesley Hardin; the James-Younger gang; the Pawnee scouts; Maj. Frank North; Tiburcio the Pinkertons.

4 "Wild Bill" Hickok

The 1851 Colt Navy revolver had a long life as a favored civilian and military sidearm. "Wild Bill" Hickok was well-known for carrying a pair of ivory-handled .36 caliber Navies and

J.B. Hickok-1869."

– FIREARM & PHOTO-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

5 / 1852 & 1853 Slant-Sharps Carbine

The U.S. military purchased more than 15,000 of both models, with most of the '52 carbines going to the 2nd U.S. Dragoons serving on the frontier. The 1853 model was nicknamed "Brown Sharps," for the use of them in his bloody anti-slavery crusade. They were also called "Beecher" after anti-slavery minister Henry Ward Beecher was quoted as saying there was more moral power in one Sharps carbine than in 100 Bibles. Both sides favored this percussion arm in "bleeding Kansas" and the 1850s border wars. Government mail contractors and stage lines operating in the Southwest of the era relied heavily on the Sharps; "Pathfinder" John C. Fremont carried a pair

5 John Brown

The 1853 slant-breech Sharps carbine earned notoriety when abolitionist John Brown armed followers with 900 of the carbines in 1855-56 for the pre-Civil War "Bleeding Kansas" conflict over slavery.

– FIREARM-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/PHOTO-COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

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CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM

Philip R. Goodwin (1881 - 1935). Untitled artwork for Winchester Rifles and Cartridges poster, 1911. Gift of the Olin Corporation, Winchester Arms Collection. 1988.804897

BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

Long Live the Wild West

Smithsonian Affiliations

The Colt muzzle-loading percussion Dragoon Revolver gained great notoriety and popularity across the country from the 1840s to the 1860s, including on the West Coast where California outlaw Tiburcio Vasquez was known to carry this heavy "revolving horse pistol."

– PHOTO-COURTESY ROBERT G. McCUBBIN COLLECTION/FIREARM-COURTESY LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES/JOHN BOESSENECKER COLLECTION –

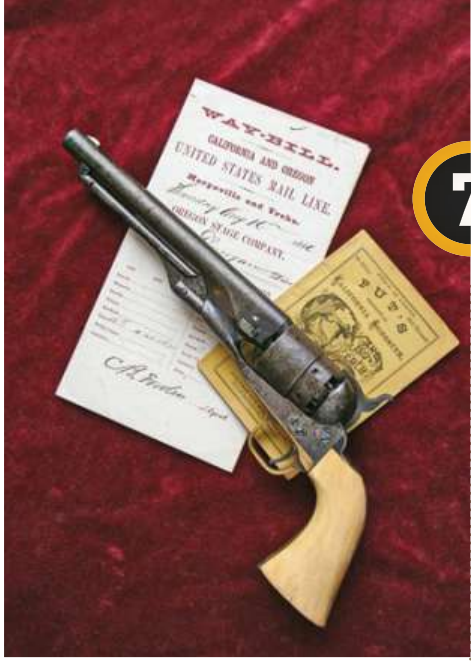
converted to metallic cartridge, west of the Mississippi. As the successor to the big Dragoons, this sleek and handsome hogleg packed plenty of power but was easier to handle. Colt's '60 was used by the U.S. Cavalry, the Texas Rangers and General Ben McCulloch's Texas Confederates, Wells Fargo detective James Hume, Mormon "Avenging Angel" Porter Rockwell, El Paso City Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire, the James brothers, Wes Hardin, Sam Bass and scores of good and bad men alike.

8 / Smith & Wesson Model 3 Revolver

Introduced in 1870, this .44 caliber "American" single-action six-shooter stands as the first practical big-bore, metallic cartridge revolver and laid the groundwork for future successful top-break S&Ws like the .44 Russian, .45 Schofield and the Double Action Frontier models. Issued to the U.S. Cavalry for a short while, the Model 3 was also favored by William F. Cody, El Paso City Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire and General William J. Palmer, builder of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The Model 3's identical-looking "Russian" variation in .44 S&W Russian caliber was packed by John Wesley Hardin, James-Younger gang member Charlie Pitts, Sheriff Pat Garrett and gunslinger King Fisher.

9 / Henry Deringer Pocket Pistol

If there was ever a single gun that had an impact on the history of the West, it was the vest pocket Deringer pistol used by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President



7

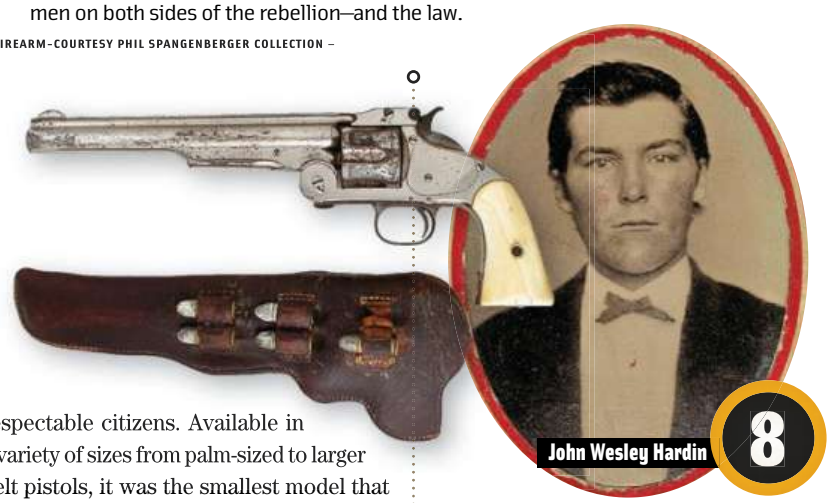
Three factors fueled the success of the Colt company in the mid-19th century: excellent design, consistent manufacturing and the ability to deliver a high volume of guns to the federal government during the Civil War, including the 1860 Colt Army revolver (left), which led to its widespread use before and after the war by men on both sides of the rebellion—and the law.

– FIREARM-COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION –

Abraham Lincoln. The single shot fired by this .41 caliber caplock unleashed an unfriendly federal policy on the Southern states, which added to the frustration of devastated ex-Confederates and caused great numbers of Southerners to head west in search of a new life. Thousands of them were packed in the gold camps of California or concealed on the persons of riverboat gamblers and soiled doves, as well as respectable citizens. Available in a variety of sizes from palm-sized to larger belt pistols, it was the smallest model that helped coin the generic term "derringer," meaning a small, hideout pistol.

10 / 1866 Winchester Rifle

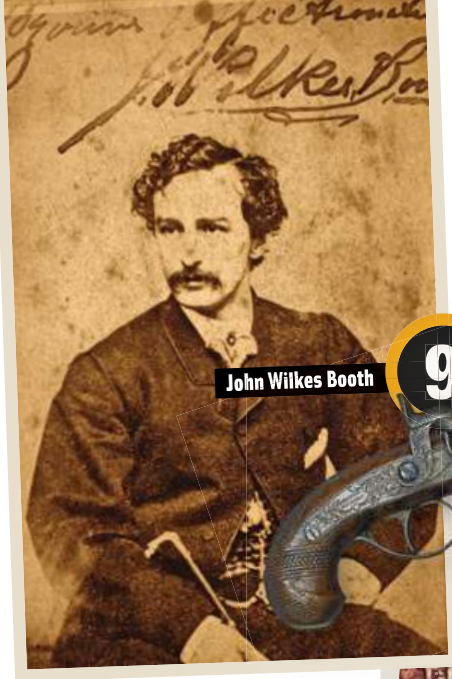
Originally dubbed the "Improved Henry" because of improvements like the addition of the King's Patent loading gate on the receiver's right side (rather than being loaded



8

Smith & Wesson emerged after the Civil War as one of the leading producers of single-action six-shooters, and the S&W Model 3 in .44 S&W Russian caliber became popular with lawmen and outlaws who needed a gun that could deliver a fatal shot every time, including the killer John Wesley Hardin.

– FIREARM & HOLSTER-COURTESY C.B. WILSON, JOHN H. WILSON COLLECTION/PHOTO-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



John Wilkes Booth 9

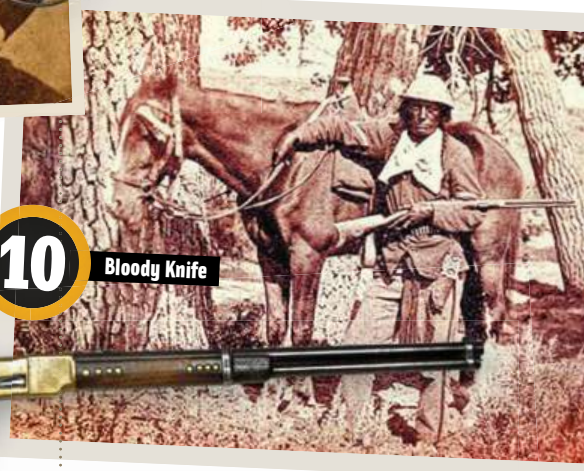
– PHOTO & FIREARM-COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

John Wilkes Booth's Henry Deringer .41 caliber caplock pocket pistol (above) that he used to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1865, is one of the most notorious guns in the pantheon of

from the magazine's muzzle end), a fully enclosed magazine and a wood forearm, over 170,000 of these brass-framed .44 caliber lever-actions left the factory between 1866 and 1898, long after stronger centerfire ammunition had eclipsed the '66's weaker rimfire fodder. Whether in full rifle or carbine form, the so-called Yellowboy '66 was a favorite with California Sheriff Harry Morse;

The "Yellowboy" '66 Winchester .44 caliber lever-action succeeded the Henry rifle as a favorite rifle on the frontier after the Civil War. Ge[illegible]ge Custer's Arikara scout Bloody [illegible]de with his '66 Winchester into [illegible]e of Little Big Horn, as did his Indian enemies who used this tack-adorned lever-action (below) rifle to help defeat the 7th Cavalry.

– PHOTO & FIRE[illegible]M-COURTESY [illegible] COLLECTION –



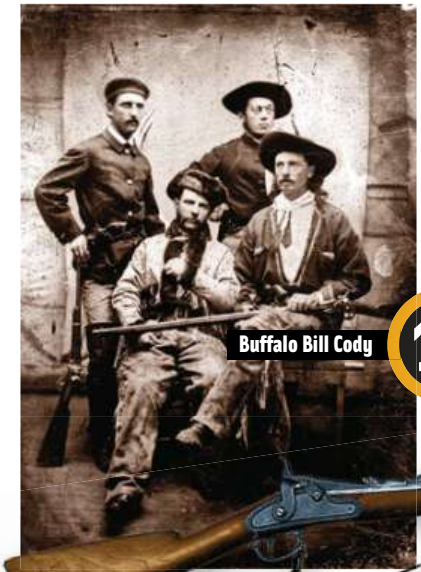
10 Bloody Knife

favorite Arikara scout, Bloody Knife; along with members of the Powell Geographic Expedition of the Grand Canyon in 1869; and 1890s outlaw Bill Doolin, to name a few.

11 / Springfield Allin Conversion 1866 Rifle

At the close of the Civil War, the federal government converted thousands of 1863 Springfield percussion rifle/muskets from muzzle loaders to breechloaders able to handle self-contained metallic cartridges, first in .58 rimfire, then by lining the .58-bore barrels to .50 caliber centerfire.

One of the most powerful single-shot rifles used in the West—the Springfield Allin Conversion 1866 in .50 caliber centerfire—was a favorite of the hide hunters including Buffalo Bill Cody, who nicknamed his deadly accurate .50-70 Allin Springfield (left) the "Lucrezia Borgia."



Buffalo Bill Cody 11

– PHOTO-COURTESY BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY/FIREARM-COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION –

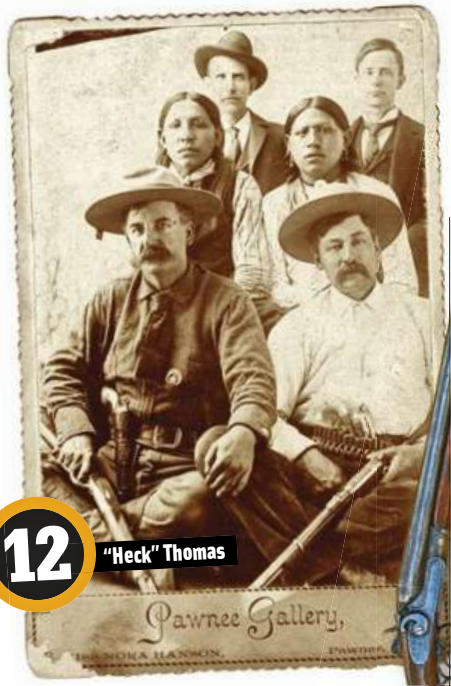
Dubbed the "needle gun" because of its long firing pin, it is credited with the U.S. Army's ability to withstand attacks along Wyoming's Bozeman Trail in the Hayfield and the Wagon Box fights in 1867 and paved the way for later trapdoor rifles and carbines like the 1873 Springfield. This powerful single-shot arm was employed by the hide hunters during the early post-Civil War buffalo hunting years. Buffalo Bill killed hundreds of the shaggy beasts for meat and affectionately called his .50-70 Allin Springfield "Lucrezia Borgia," because like the renaissance-era *femme fatale* duchess, Cody considered it beautiful but deadly.

12 / Double-Barrel Shotgun

Although the rifle and six-gun usually take the bows for winning the West, it was the double-barreled shotgun as much as any firearm that was responsible for bringing civilization to the frontier. Many of the early pioneers invested everything they had, in order to make the overland trek out West, leaving little money for weaponry. The best and certainly one of the most economical and versatile firearms for hunting and defense in a wild, hostile land was the twin-barreled scattergun. Whether muzzle loader or breech-loading cartridge gun, many thousands of shotguns from a variety of makers and countries were the mainstay of settlers, lawmen, express companies, Native Americans, soldiers, ranchers and hunters. Gunmen like Indian Territory lawman Heck Thomas and gambler John H. "Doc" Holiday also used scatterguns. Virtually everyone, good or bad, who needed a weapon recognized the value of the old side by side.

13 / 1873 Colt Single Action Army Revolver

If any gun conjures up images of the Old West, it's Colt's 1873 single-action Army revolver. This smokewagon was the best balanced, ergonomically perfect six-gun of the age, and from the time of its introduction in late 1873, it became an instant frontier favorite with good and

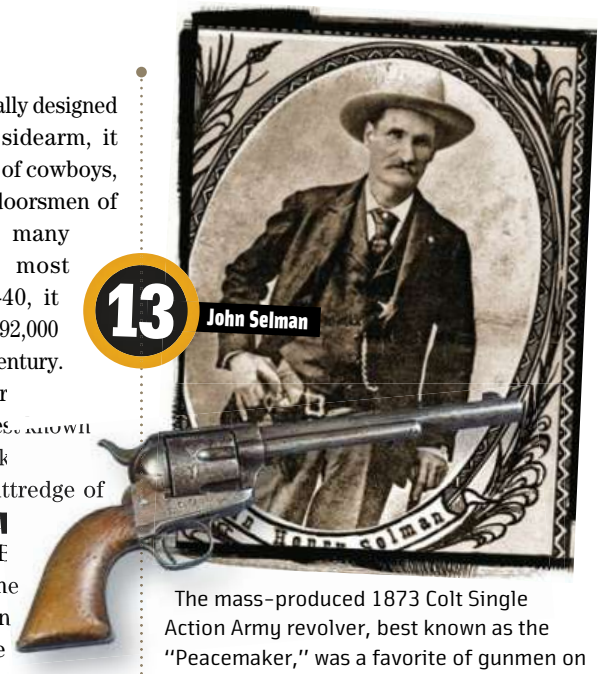


12 "Heck" Thomas

Few guns on the Western front as practical and as feared as th barrel shotgun, especially if t had been sawed off (right) "Heck" Thomas used a doub shotgun to kill outlaw Bi

– PHOTO & FIREARM-COUR PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLE

bad ke. Originally designed and cavalry sidearm, it quic the choice of cowboys, vs and outdoorsmen of all b roduced in many powe amberings, most olt and .44-40, it outsol petitors with 192,000 made by the end of the 19th century. nown as the Equalizer and otl nikers, it was bes known as the emaker—a monik it by Colt distributor E. Kittredge of Cincir i. It was the pref sidearm of Wyatt Earp, B Maste on, the Texas and the Ariz na Rangers, John an, Wes Hardin, the Dalt ns, John Slaughter, Elfego Baca and countless other We terners. It was and still is truly the six-gun of the Wild West.



13 John Selman

The mass-produced 1873 Colt Single Action Army revolver, best known as the "Peacemaker," was a favorite of gunmen on both sides of the law, including Constable John Selman, who killed John Wesley Hardin in El Paso's notorious Acme Saloon.

– PHOTO & FIREARM-COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION –

The 1873 Winchester (below, owned by Comanche leader Quanah Parker) became a weapon of choice for lawmen and outlaws, including Cherokee statesman/outlaw Ned Christie, who died in a shootout with lawmen in 1892.

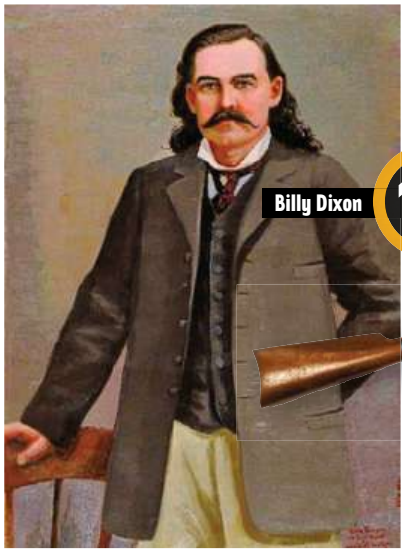
14 Ned Christie

14 / 1873 Winchester Rifle

Perhaps the most famous and certainly the most recognizable rifle of America's frontier period, this iron-framed lever-action rifle was Winchester's first centerfire arm and was manufactured from 1873 until1919, with well over a half million turned out by 1900. A favorite with Westerners since its debut, the '73 was eventually teamed with the Colt Single Action revolver and other six-guns of the time that had been chambered to take the Winchester's proprietary .44-40, .38-40 and .32-20 ammunition. Easy to operate and care for, its slab-sided design made both the rifle and carbine versions ideal for a saddle scabbard, and the '73 1874 Texas Rangers, as well as a favorite of rancher Granville Stuart, and outlaws Butch Cassidy, Belle Starr, Pearl Hart and Billy the Kid (William Bonney), just for starters.

15 / 1874 Sharps Rifle

Best known as the "buffalo rifle," due to its heavy use by hide hunters, it was made from 1871 until 1881. Sharps' 1874 model didn't get the '74 moniker until after the introduction of later Sharps rifles. Only 12,445 of the various model 1874 Sharps were produced by the factory, with several hundred additional '74-style guns converted from altered Civil War percussion carbine actions by the Sharps factory and by E.C. Meacham of St. Louis. It was offered in such powerful big-game loads as .44-77, .45-70, .50-90 and .50-110. An 1887 government survey cited the Sharps single-shot rifle with shooting more buffalo



Billy Dixon 15

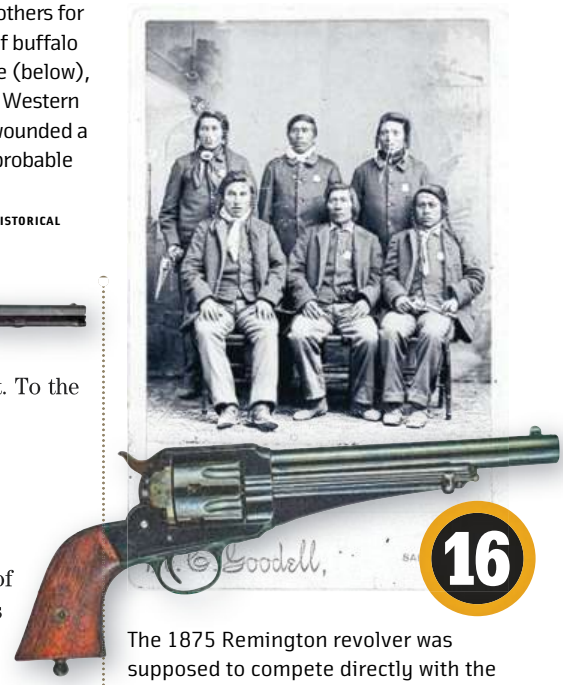
Billy Dixon, as famous as the Mooar brothers for his accuracy and ability to kill dozens of buffalo a day with his 1874 .50-90 Sharps Rifle (below), sealed his name among the legends of Western sharpshooters when he badly wounded a Comanche warrior from an improbable distance of over 1,500 yards.

– PAINTING-COURTESY PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM/FIREARM-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

than any other gun during the hide-hunting years of 1867 through 1882. It also did more to destroy the Plains Indians' nomadic way of life than any other firearm. Among its famous users were lawman Bill Tilghman, during his buffalo hunting years; the Union Pacific Railroad; and Martha "Calamity" Jane Canary. At the Battle of Adobe Walls in June 1874, hunter Billy Dixon used a .50-90 Sharps to make a 1,538-yard shot, dropping an Indian and effectively ending that fight. To the Indians, the Sharps was known as th far," or "shoot today, kill tomorrow

16 / 1875 Remington Revolver

When E. Remington & Sons, of Ilion, New York, introduced its "New Model 1875" or "No. 3 Revolver," a Colt Peacemaker lookalike, the firm had high hope of competing with the '73 Colt's instant popularity, and while sales were initially brisk, the revolver never achieved the desired success or official acceptance by the U.S. government. Chambered in .44



16

The 1875 Remington revolver was supposed to compete directly with the Colt Peacemaker, but it never gained a strong share of the market, despite The Bureau of Indian Affairs arming Indian Police forces, including the Nez Perce police (above), with the nickel-plated revolvers.

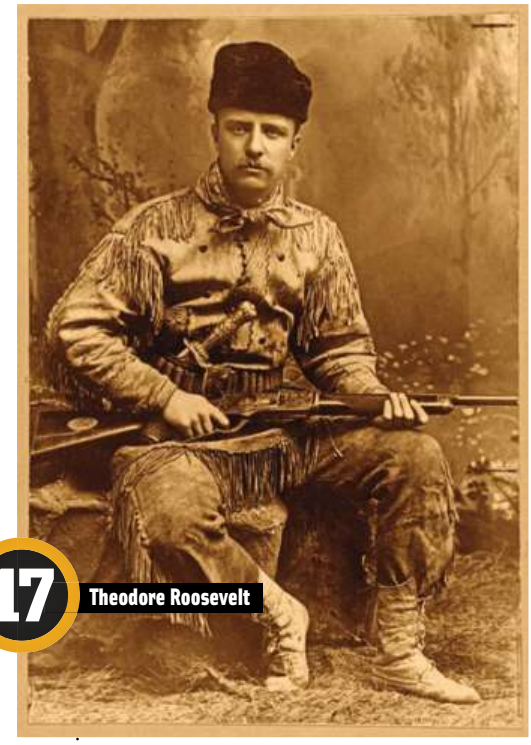
– PHOTO-COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION/ FIREARM-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

The "Centennial Model" 1876 Winchester supplanted the weaker 1873 Winchester as a big-game rifle, and was Theodore Roosevelt's favorite hunting rifle during his tenure as a Dakota Territory rancher.

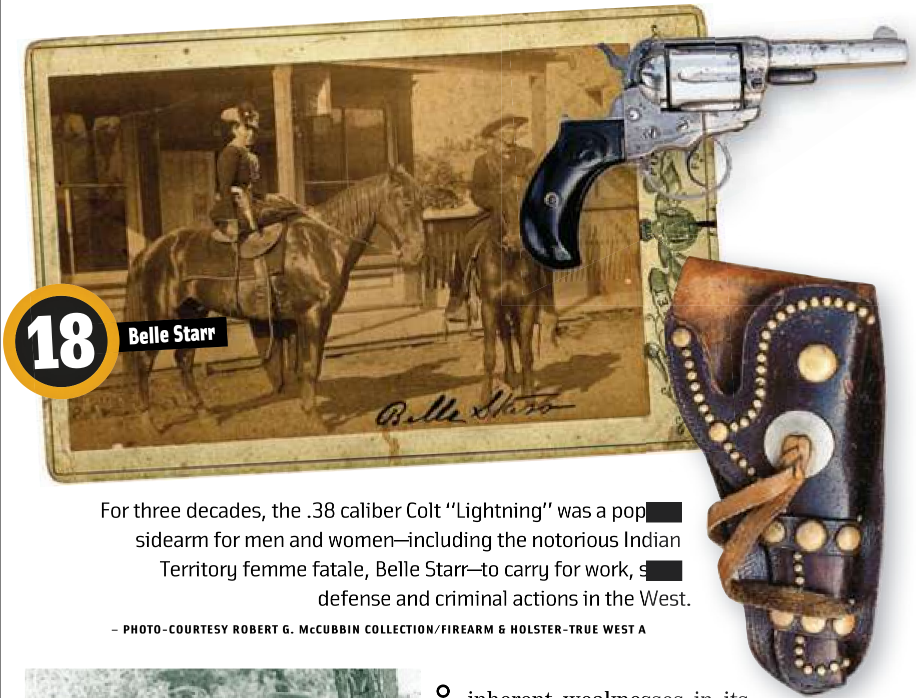
– FIREARM-ROCK ISLAND AUCTIONS/PHOTO-COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

17 / 1876 Winchester Rifle

A giant of a rifle, this enlarged version of the '73 model, the 1876 Winchester was originally dubbed the Centennial Model, with nearly 64,000 produced between 1876 and 1897. Designed as a big-game hunting rifle, it was chambered for more powerful black powder loads than the medium-powered '73 model, including the .40-60, .45-60, .45-75 and .50-95. The massive '76 was a favorite with Theodore Roosevelt, and he used it extensively during his Dakota Territory ranching days. The 1876 Winchester is one of the few lever-action rifles to actually see use on the buffalo ranges by the hide hunters. Its unique full-stocked carbine (in .45-75 caliber) was issued to Canada's North West Mounted Police and used by them into the early 20th century.

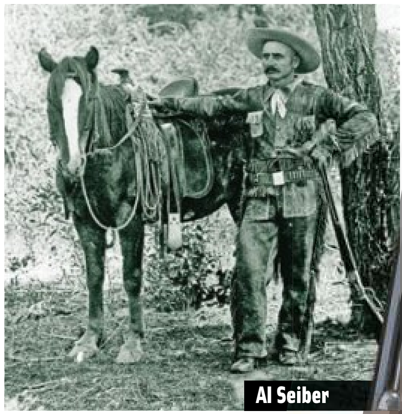


Remington Centerfire, .44 Winchester Central Fire (.44-40) and .45 Colt, only around 25,000 of the model were ever produced from 1875 through 1889. It did gain some popularity out West with the Republic of Mexico ordering 1,000 revolvers during the 1880s, and in 1883 the U.S. Interior Department purchasing 639 nickel-plated 7 1/2-inch '75 Remingtons for issuance to various Indian Police agencies on frontier reservations. Gunman Frank Loving carried one, but perhaps the 1875 Remington's most notable proponent was Missouri outlaw Frank James.



For three decades, the .38 caliber Colt "Lightning" was a pop[redacted] sidearm for men and women—including the notorious Indian Territory femme fatale, Belle Starr—to carry for work, s[redacted] defense and criminal actions in the West.

– PHOTO-COURTESY ROBERT G. McCUBBIN COLLECTION/FIREARM & HOLSTER-TRUE WEST A



Al Seiber, Tom Horn's mentor, was an Army scout known for h expert use of firearms in battle. The repeating action of the powerful 1886 Winchester rifl[redacted] (right) earned Sieber's trust as a gun that could win the day.

– PHOTO-COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION/FIREARM-COURTESY RANDY HUGHES-BY PAUL GOODWIN –

18 / 1877 Colt Double-Action Revolver

Although Colt's first attempt at producing a double-actio revolver was less than stellar du to a complex and inefficien lockworks that was easily broken and difficult to replace, the 1877 model was light and handy and gained a fair amou of popularity on the frontier. Nearly 167,000 were made between 1877 and 1909. In new condition the '77 was an efficient arm but, if the six-gun was put to much work, the inherent weaknesses in its design became all too obvious.

I lly called the "New Double Action, S Central Fire, Six Shot R e factory, Colt distributor B. of Cincinnati coined the nicknames of Lightning for the iber and Thunderer for the bering (a couple hundred were e in .32 caliber). Notable '77 pack ded Pat Garrett, Billy the Kid, John Hardin, Cole Younger and lady banc Starr and Pearl Hart.

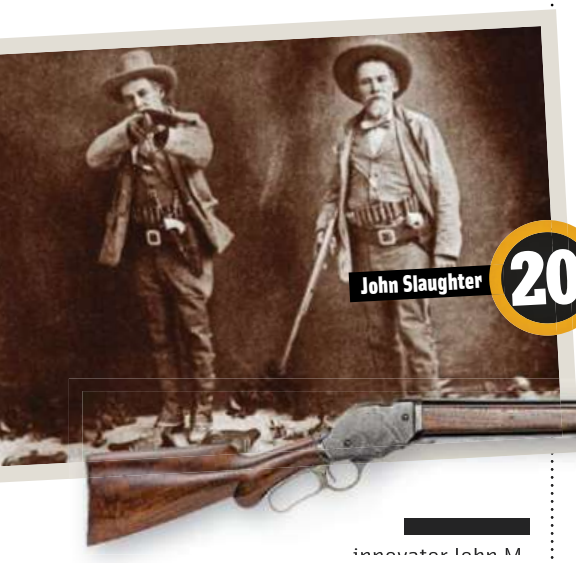
ter Rifle

vast improvement er the 1876 model, e '86, with its vertical [redacted]cking bolts and reamlined frame, was [redacted]nctively different from prev ous Winchesters, and [redacted] the first repeater from [redacted]ntive firearms genius John rowning to be adopted by chester. It was also that co[redacted]pany's first lever gun to be chambered [redacted]the powerful .45-70 Government ridge, along with other black powder b[redacted]game chamberings, such as .45-90 and -110 Express. As such it was one of the big-bore repeaters that helped spell doom for single-shot rifles. Another of Teddy Roosevelt's favorites, it was also a crucial part of Arizona's Commodore Perry

Owens' arsenal as well as army scout Al Seiber's. A number of '86s were used by the "invaders" brought in by the cattlemen in Wyoming's 1892 Johnson County War. Produced from 1886 through 1935, around 120,000 were turned out by 1900.

20 / 1887 Winchester Shotgun

This early repeating shotgun, first introduced in the West in the spring of 1888, was not the first repeating scattergun manufactured but is considered the first successful one. The brainchild of John Browning, the '87 lever-action was available in 10 and 12 gauge. The six-shot '87 quickly became a success with just fewer than 64,000 turned out before 1899. A favorite of Arizona Sheriff John Slaughter, this smoothbore was also used on Feb. 15, 1900, by lawman Jeff Milton, who used his 10-gauge 1887 Winchester shotgun to kill Three Fingered Jack Dunlop during an attempted holdup of the Southern Pacific Railway in Arizona Territory. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad also issued a number of '87s to its messengers.



innovator John M

Browning designed the first widely used repeating shotgun, the 1887 Winchester. The smooth-bore held six rounds, one in the chamber, and five rounds in an under-barrel magazine, a very popular feature with Western lawmen, including John Slaughter.

– PHOTO-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/ FIREARM-COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY –

21 / 1892 Colt New Army & Navy Revolver

One of the early sw
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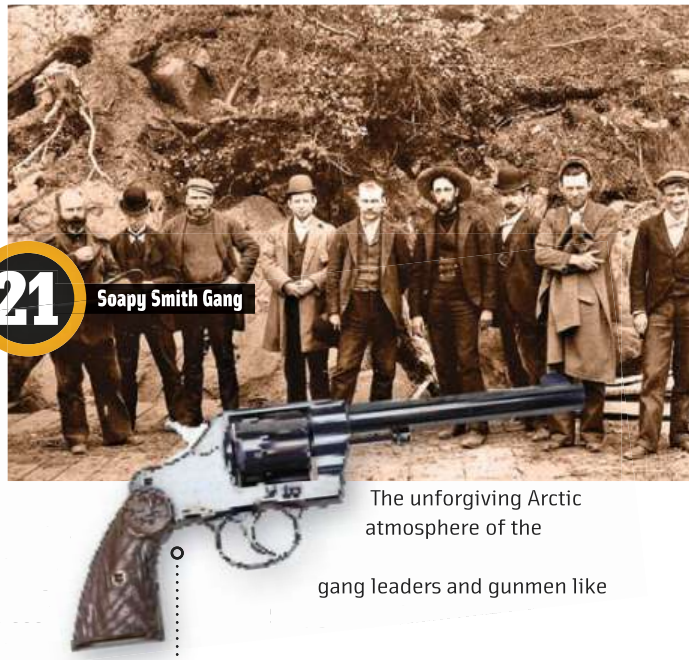

The unforgiving Arctic atmosphere of the

gang leaders and gunmen like

The 1890s was an important decade i
firearm innovation in America and gun-inventor John Browning contributed one of his most famous long guns in the pantheon of rifles—the 1895 Winche
The Arizona Ranger (above, at right) is holding a '95 Winchester, which gave him a heavy-duty, quick-firing repeater lawmen could depend or when patrolling the dangerous border region.

– PHOTO-COURTESY ROBERT G. McCUBBIN COLLECTION/ FIREARM-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

guns, about 115,000 of th em
d of 18 3 in
rial
e 1892, 18 94,
1895 and 1896 models, and later the Model 1901 and Model 1903. Besides their use by the U.S. Army and Navy, including Teddy Roosevelt and many of his Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War of 1898, several were purchased by Wells

New Army & Navy revolver, which they could count on in the worst of weather.

– PHOTO-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/FIREARM-COURTESY NRA MUSEUMS, NRAMUSEUMS.ORG –

Co. and the gun was
by conman extraordi-
efferson "Soapy" Smith
; his Skagway, Alaska,

1895 Winchester Rifle

An
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such as the .30-40 Krag, .30-06, .303
40-72, .405 Winchester and the
7.62mm Russian calibers, its box
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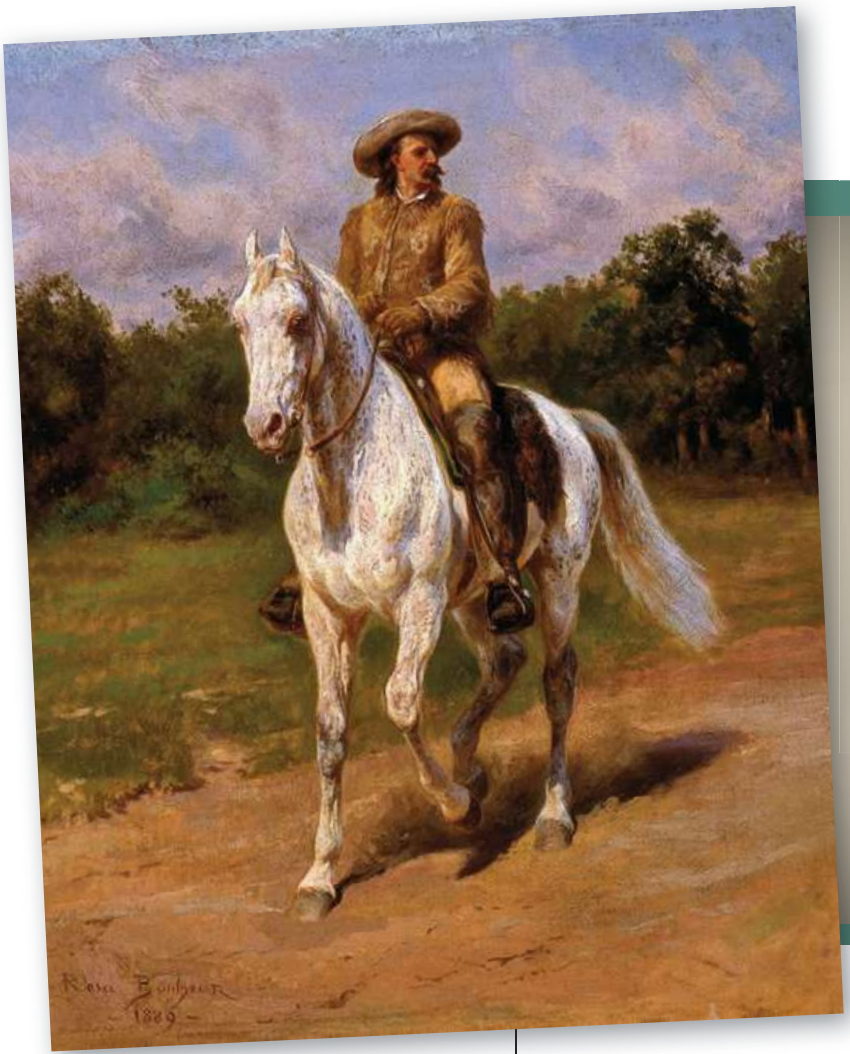
held
beca
Arizona Rangers, and was also
por
the era. A few were put to use by
so
Rid
American War. With nearly 426,000
Model '95s made between 1896 and
1931, the gun quickly became so
popular that almost 20,000 were
produced before Jan. 1, 1899.

unique firearm from the genius of John Browning, Winchester was the first ul box-magazine lever- le manufactured. Made to he then-new smokeless mmunition capable of taking worldwide, with chamberings
ve rounds. The '95 model e standard issue with the r with the Texas Rangers of f Theodore Roosevelt's Rough n Cuba during the Spanish-

TRADING POST

Western Roundup

FOR NOVEMBER 2015



¡O WEST! ART OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER FROM THE BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

Omaha, NE, Opens November 15: Joslyn Art Museum exhibit explores the evolution of the American West through American Indian artifacts, such as the above Crow jacket, and artwork, including Rosa Bonheur's *Col. William F. Cody*.
402-342-3300 • *Joslyn.org*

ART SHOWS

SHARING THE PAST THROUGH ART

Fort Worth, TX, November 12: A tour through Amon Carter museum with emphasis on using artistic themes to connect with past experiences.
817-738-1933 • *CarterMuseum.org*

ALPINE ARTWALK

Alpine, TX, November 20-21: View artwork by featured artist Carol Fairlie and more Western artists, plus live music from local musicians.
432-837-3067 • *ArtwalkAlpine.com*

AUCTION

FIREARMS AND EARLY MILITARIA AUCTION

Cincinnati, OH, November 3-5: Auction of fresh-to-the-market rifles, pistols, uniforms, shotguns, powderhorns, bowie knives and accouterments.
513-871-1670 • *CowansAuctions.com*

FRONTIER FARE

CHANDLER CHUCKWAGON COOK-OFF

Chandler, AZ, November 6-7: Authentic 1880s chuck wagons from around the Southwest compete to cook up the best meals fit for the trail.
480-782-2751 • *ChandlerAZ.gov*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

DAY OF THE DEAD

Silver City, NM, November 1: A celebration featuring a parade, live music, craft demonstrations, plus traditional art and food.
575-538-5555 • *SilverCityTourism.org*

WILD WEST DAYS

Cave Creek, AZ, November 6-8: A celebration of the West with mounted shooting contests, costume competitions, live music and more.
480-488-2466 • *WildWestDaysCaveCreek.com*

MONTEREY COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Monterey, CA, November 20-22: Cow Bop (above), Michael Martin Murphey, Sons of the San Joaquin and other Western musicians entertain with cowboy music and poetry.
831-649-6544 • *MontereyCowboy.org*

Western Roundup

FOR NOVEMBER 2015

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW AND SALE

Oklahoma City, OK, November 6-21: Qualified horses and their owners compete in the AQHA world championship show, plus a horse sale.
806-376-4811 • *AQHA.com*

CELEBRACIÓN

Santa Fe, NM, November 7: This gala event to raise funds for the Spanish Colonial Arts Society features an art auction and live entertainment.
505-982-2226 • *SpanishColonial.org*

RANCH HAND FESTIVAL

Kingsville, TX, November 20-22: This festival honors Kingsville's rich cultural heritage as one of the mainstays of the Texas ranching industry.
800-333-5032 • *RanchHandFestival.com*

RIVER OF LIGHTS

Albuquerque, NM, Opens November 28: Be dazzled by more than 150 light displays, animated sculptures and a synchronized music light show.
505-768-2000 • *VisitAlbuquerque.org*

HOLIDAY FESTIVALS

THE POLAR EXPRESS

Durango, CO, Opens November 21: This 1879 railroad offers kids a train ride sharing the classic Christmas tale on the way to Santa.
970-247-2733 • *DurangoTrain.com*

SANTA'S NORTH POLE ADVENTURE

Georgetown, CO, Opens November 21: Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and candy canes with Santa and his helpers aboard decorated train coaches.
888-456-6777 • *GeorgetownLoopRR.com*

■RISTMAS AT UNION STATION

■naha, NE, Opens November 27: A tradition since Union Station's earliest years, this tree lighting ceremony includes a visit from Santa.
402-444-5071 • *DurhamMuseum.org*

/ICKENBURG LUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Wickenburg, AZ, November 13-15: Cowboys and cowgirls from across the country gather for outside performances of Bluegrass music.
928-684-5479
WickenburgChamber.com

STARLIGHT PARADE

The Dalles, OR, November 27: This former fur trade town brings Cowboy Christmas to life with lighted parade floats and merry jingles.
541-296-2231
TheDallesChamber.com

SISTERS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & PARADE

Sisters, OR, November 27-28: Kick off the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony and parade featuring a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.
866-549-0252
SistersCountry.com

WINE COUNTRY THANKSGIVING

Willamette Valley, OR, November 27-29: Celebrate Thanksgiving with live music and special wine tastings from more than 150 Willamette Valley Wineries.
503-646-2985 • *WillametteWines.com*

DEATH VALLEY '49ERS ENCAMPMENT

Furnace Creek, CA, November 11-15: Celebrate the spirit of the 1849 Gold Rush with music, an arts and crafts show, cowboy poetry and parades.
866-683-2948 • *DeathValley49ers.org*

NORTH POLE FLYER

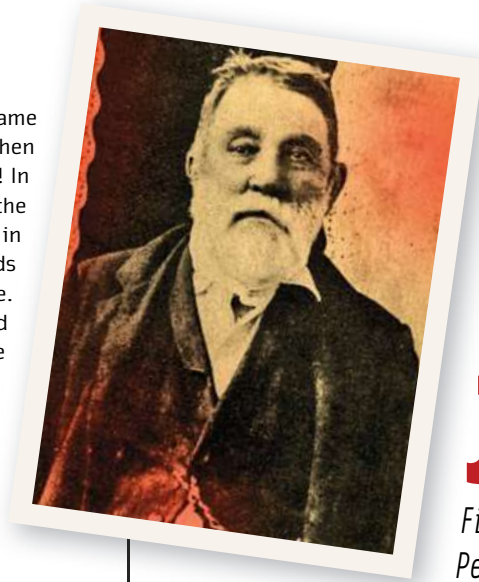
Austin, TX, Opens November 28: Ride from Cedar Park to Bertram in decorated train cars powered by a 1960 ALCO diesel locomotive.
512-477-8468 • *AustinSteamTrain.org*

RODEO

WRCA WOLD CHAMPIONSHIP RANCH RODEO

Amarillo, TX, November 12-15: Top ranch teams compete in the world championship hosted by Working Ranch Cowboys Association.
806-374-9722 • *WRCA.org*

TWMag.com:
View Western events on our website.



Judge Roy Bean (right) came even closer to the noose...when it was tied around his neck! In California, in 1854, he killed the groom of a woman he loved in a duel. The dead man's friends left Bean to hang from a tree. When the horse he was on did not bolt, the bride cut the rope and freed Bean.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

Judge, Jury & Joker?

Find out how close the "Law West of the Pecos" came to hanging a man.

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Movies have tried to paint Texas Judge Roy Bean, who became the "Law West of the Pecos," as a hanging judge, confusing him with another frontier judge, Isaac Parker. Bean was more of a blowhard.

During his official reign as law of the land, from 1882 to 1896, Bean had an uncanny ability to discern how much money a defendant was carrying and fined him accordingly. He even fined a corpse for carrying a concealed weapon, confiscating the dead man's $40 and pistol.

My Grandpa Walker Trimble, an engineer for the Southern Pacific Railroad's Del Rio and Eagle Pass route, knew Judge Bean. My grandpa told me that the nearest Bean ever came to hanging a man was a prank.

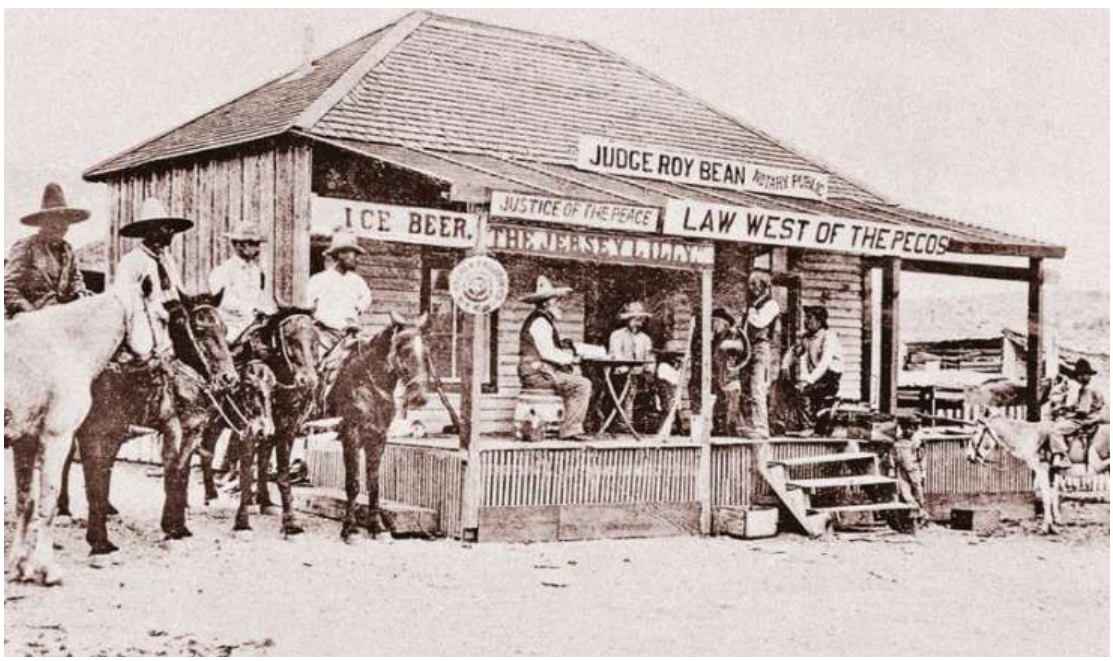
A trio of itinerants had pilfered a railroad official's pistol and wandered into Langtry afoot. When apprehended, they were brought before the judge, in his tent city of Vinegarroon, a few miles east. He fined and released the repentant two. The third cursed Bean, who sentenced the surly, cocky lad to "death by hanging."

Since Langtry did not have any trees tall enough to lynch a man, citizens stood the lad up against a railroad boxcar. They placed a noose around his neck and threw it over the top of the boxcar. A cowboy dallied the other end to his saddle horn and prepared to uplift the culprit. By this time, the terrified young man became repentant. "Too late!" Judge Bean said.

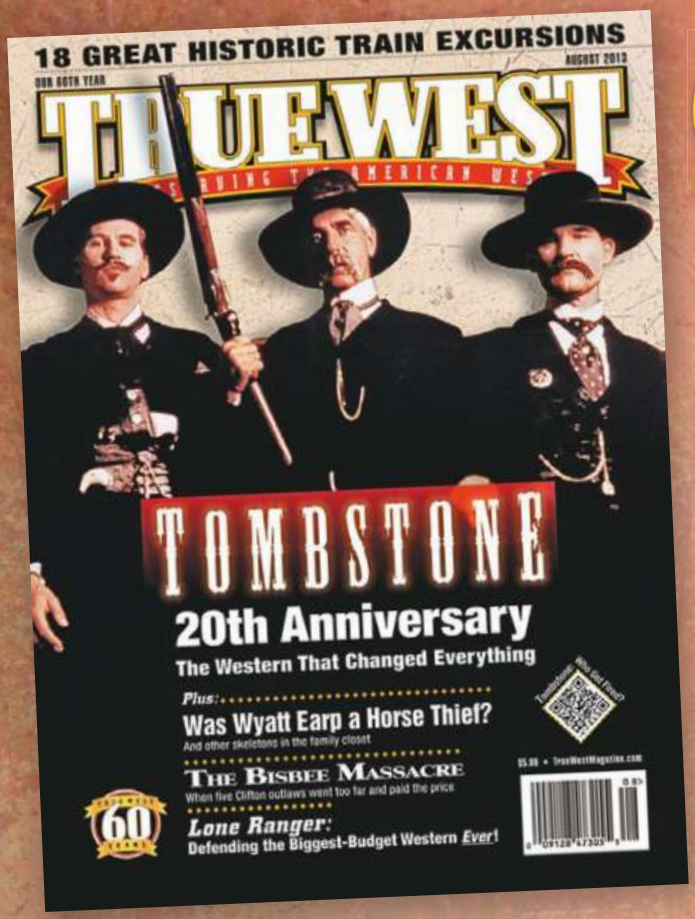
Billy Dodd, Bean's one-man jury, whispered in the condemned man's ear, "When we ain't looking, slip that noose off your head and run like hell, and don't ever come back to these parts."

The "doomed" man nodded. When Judge Bean and the others in the hanging party looked skyward and closed their eyes in prayer, he slipped off the noose and ran for dear life.

The boys went back into Bean's saloon, the Jersey Lilly, and had a good laugh.



In 1882, Roy Bean, in his late 50s, established a saloon in a tent city he named Vinegarroon. That summer, Texas Rangers asked him to oversee local law jurisdiction. Bean relied on an 1879 edition of the *Revised Statutes of Texas*; you can see the judge with the book in his saloon-turned-courtroom, an attraction you can still visit in Langtry, Texas, today.



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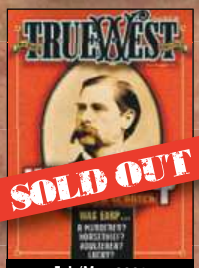
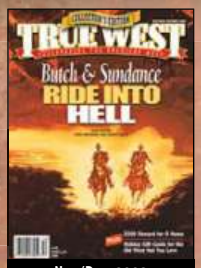


Feb/Mar-2001
Wyatt Earp


Nov/Dec-2002
Butch & Sundance

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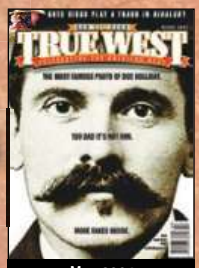
Doc & Wyatt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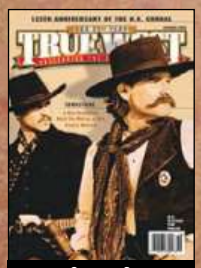
Dec-2006
Buffalo Gals & Guys


Oct-2006
Tombstone/125th OK Corral


Oct-2007
3:10 to Yuma


Oct-2008
Charlie Russell

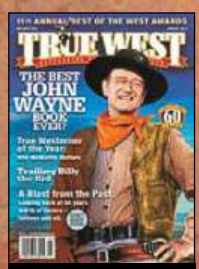
Sep-2009
500 Yrs Before Cowboys


Nov/Dec-2010
Black Warriors of the West


Apr-2011
True Grit/Bridges & Wayne


Jun-2012
Wyatt on the Set


Jul-2012
Deadly Trackers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2005
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- ☐ Mar: Deadwood/McShane
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- ☐ Nov/Dec: Gay Western? Killer DVDs

2006
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Mexican Insurgents
- ☐ Mar: Kit Carson
- ☐ Apr: I've Been Everywhere, Man
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- ☐ Jun: Playing Sports in the OW
- ☐ Jul/Aug: Dude! Where's My Ranch?
- ☐ Sep: Indian Yell
- ☐ Oct: Tombstone/125th Ok Corral
- ☐ Nov: Gambling
- ☐ Dec: Buffalo Gals & Guys

2007
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Cowboys Are Indians
- ☐ Mar: Trains/Jim Clark
- ☐ Apr: Western Travel
- ☐ May: Dreamscape Desperado/Billy
- ☐ Jun: Collecting the West/Photos
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- ☐ Sep: Endurance Of The Horse
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2008
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Pat Garrett/No Country
- ☐ Mar: Who Killed the Train?
- ☐ Apr: Travel/Geronimo
- ☐ May: Who Stole Buffalo Bill's Home?
- ☐ Jun: The Last Cowboy President?
- ☐ Jul: Secrets of Our Nat'l Parks/Teddy
- ☐ Aug: Kendricks Northern CBs/Photos
- ☐ Sep: Saloons & Stagecoaches
- ☐ Oct: Charlie Russell
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Mickey Free

2009
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Border Riders
- ☐ Mar: Poncho Villa
- ☐ Apr: Stagecoach
- ☐ May: Battle For The Alamo
- ☐ Jun: Custer's Ride To Glory
- ☐ Jul: Am West, Then & Now
- ☐ Aug: Wild West Shows
- ☐ Sep: Vaquero/500 Yrs Before CBs
- ☐ Oct: Capturing Billy
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Chaco Canyon

2010
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Top 10 WesternTowns
- ☐ Mar: Trains/Pony Express
- ☐ Apr: OW Destinations/Clint Eastwood
- ☐ May: Legendary Sonny Jim
- ☐ Jun: Extreme Western Adventures
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2011
- ☐ Jan/Feb: Sweethearts of the Rodeo
- ☐ Mar: 175th Anniv Battle of the Alamo
- ☐ Apr: Three True Grits
- ☐ May: Historic Ranches
- ☐ Jun: Tin Type Billy
- ☐ Jul: Viva, Outlaw Women!
- ☐ Aug: Was Geronimo A Terrorist?
- ☐ Sep: Western Museums/CBs & Aliens
- ☐ Oct: Hard Targets
- ☐ Nov/Dec: Butch Cassidy is Back

2012
- ☐ Feb: Az Crazy Road to Statehood
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- ☐ Apr: Riding Shotgun with History
- ☐ May: The Outlaw Cowboys of NM
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- ☐ Sep: The Heros of Northfield
- ☐ Oct: Bravest Lawman You Never
- ☐ Nov: Armed & Courageous
- ☐ Dec: Legend of Climax Jim

2013
- ☐ Jan: Best of the West/John Wayne
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- ☐ ~~Mar: Arizona Rangers~~
- ☐ Apr: US Marshals
- ☐ May: Texas Rangers
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Arbuckles' Won the West

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official state historian and the vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona's Outlaws and Lawmen*. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu

How easy was it to get a cup o coffee in the Old West?

Stace Webb
Eugene, Oregon

Coffee was ubiquitous in the frontier West. Contrary to popular belief, coffee was more in demand than alcohol, especially after John Arbuckle's 1864 innovation. then, coffee beans were sold green, and the buyer had to roast them in a skillet. If one bean burned, the batch was ruined.

Arbuckle roasted the coffee beans and sealed in the flavor with an egg and sugar glaze. He then sold the beans in a one-pound bag. Arbuckles' Ariosa Coffee became the "Coffee that Won the West."

During the 19th century, Navajos preferred Arbuckles' Ariosa Coffee, calling it *hosteen cohay*, which loosely translates to "Mr. Coffee."

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

In 1973's *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*, Bob Dylan played the Kid's knife-throwing buddy Alias. Was he real?

Peter L. Stadlbaur
Maubray, Belgium

Billy the Kid's only Arizona sidekick was an ex-soldier named John Mackie, who the Kid knew while he was a small-time thief in Bonita. His best pal in New Mexico was Tom Folliard.

Alias was a fictional figure, but the Kid called his friend Alias in ghostwriter Ash Upson's portion of Pat Garrett's 1882 book, *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid.* Bob Dylan got the role, recommended by Kris Kristofferson (who played the Kid), and he earned Director Sam Peckinpah's respect with the songs he wrote for the film.

Will you find the TV documentary on Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution that aired years ago?

Mike Donaldson
Tye, Texas

I know of the *American Experience* program, "The Hunt for Pancho Villa," that aired in 1993, and another PBS documentary, "The Storm that Swept Mexico," that aired in 2011. Both are excellent programs. Visit *ShopPBS.org* or call 800-531-4727 for order information.

In your June 2015 column, you discussed animals killed in 1925's *Ben-Hur*. Wasn't a man killed during the chariot race in the 1959 version?

Paul Hughes
Vacaville, California

A persistent rumor has claimed Stephen Boyd's stunt double was killed during the chariot race, but that is false. The only injury in the 1959 film took place while stuntman Joe Canutt was doubling for star Charlton Heston. He was flipped off the chariot (you can see it in the film), and he ended up with a small cut on his chin.

Lew Wallace was writing his novel *Ben-Hur* during the deadly Lincoln County War and, as territorial governor of New Mexico, while handling its aftermath. Contrary to the novel— no one was killed in the making of the film.

– 1959 *BEN-HUR* STILL COURTESY MGM –

What can you tell me about the town of Fairbank, Arizona?

Chalmer Davidson
Poplarville, Mississippi

The railroad arrived in what became Fairbank, Arizona, in 1881, making the town the closest link by rail to Tombstone, which was one of the largest cities in the territory at the time.

Fairbank's train station became the scene of a sensational attempted train robbery on February 15, 1900, by the Burt Alvord Gang. Former Texas Ranger Jeff Milton, who was in the Wells, Fargo & Co. express car, thwarted the heist.

By the mid-1970s, Fairbank was all but deserted. The town was later incorporated into the BLM's San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area as the Fairbank Historic Townsite, which is open to the public.

This circa 1890 photo shows Fairbank, Arizona, a railroad town that acted as a way point for Tombstone's silver mines and Bisbee's copper pits.

Did Wyatt Earp carry his pistol in a holster at the O.K. Corral gunfight?

Ken Blyth
Surrey, England

No, lawman Wyatt Earp did not carry his pistol in a holster during the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral that took place in Tombstone, Arizona, on October 26, 1881.

Movies show Wyatt, his brothers Virgil and Morgan, and Doc Holliday wearing holsters that day, but Wyatt actually had his gun in an overcoat pocket, Earp expert Jeff Morey says. Holliday, who was also armed with a shotgun, likely carried his pistol the same way. Morgan probably followed suit. Virgil stuck his in his waistband.

On the other side of the gunfight, cowboys Billy Clanton and Frank McLaury wore guns in holsters. Tom McLaury had access to a rifle in a saddle scabbard. Ike Clanton was unarmed.

At the time, few men in Old West towns used holsters—but rural dwellers, especially cowboys, frequently wore them.

Who was the narrator at the beginning of *The Lone Ranger?*

Barbara Stevens
Marcellus, Michigan

Frederick William "Fred" Foy. Radio historian Jim Harmon called Foy "perhaps the greatest announcer-narrator in the history of radio drama."

After a tour of duty in WWII, Foy worked in Detroit, Michigan, at WXYZ, where *The Lone Ranger* radio show originated in 1933. He took over in 1948 and continued until the series ended in 1954. In 1955, he reprised his "Return with us now..." opening narration for TV's syndicated run of *The Lone Ranger*.

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

Growing up in Portales, the perfect small town—with a regional university—was great. We even had Billy the Kid's hideout.

I got the history bug from my grandfather, who homesteaded in Lincoln County. I am still amazed how he lived, as a dryland farmer, with a well that didn't produce water.

The U.S. Marine Corps taught me to accomplish my mission and take care of my Marines.

Infantry life today compared to the 1800s is still all about locating, closing with and destroying the enemy, by fire and maneuver, in rain, hail, sleet, snow, heat and dirt.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was an underappreciated builder of the American West.

Tres Ritos was a valley filled with so much history. The detailed history of the region has yet to be written, especially the definitive biography of Albert Bacon Fall.

The Cattle Queen of New Mexico, Susan McSween Barber, was perhaps one of the most well-known participants of the Lincoln County War. She is also one of the greatest enigmas—the stories she could have told and didn't.

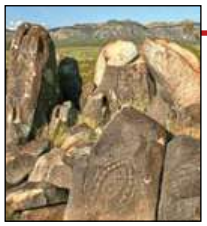
The greatest cultural resource in New Mexico today is the 1874 Lincoln County Courthouse. The debate continues on what actually happened within its walls.

The Convento's storied history includes being a saloon, the first county courthouse, the site of the first legal hanging in Lincoln, a church, a convent for nuns, a storage building and a museum.

Attending services at Lincoln's 1887 San Juan Mission Church gives a sense of peace, especially with its blue walls to ward off evil spirits.

The first structure built in the center of the plaza, in la Placita del Rio Bonito, was the Torreón. Partially reconstructed, it was once four stories tall and surrounded by a 10-foot rock fence.

The Lincoln County War deserves a place in history because it was the stereotypical range war in the Old West, with no good guys and no bad guys—everyone was just trying to stay alive.



Gary Cozzens's best of New Mexico: Three Rivers Petroglyph Site (spot to visit, see left); *El Palacio* Magazine (travelogue). The best of the West: *The Magnificent Seven* (movie); *Wagon Train* (TV show); Peter Hurd (artist).

GARY COZZENS, SITE MANAGER

A New Mexico native who served as a U.S. Marine for 21 years, including during Operation Desert Storm, Gary Cozzens has worked as the park manager of the Lincoln State Monument since 2013. He previously served nearly 20 years as the director of career and technical education for seven school districts in south central New Mexico. A New Mexico history buff, he is the author of *The Nogal Mesa: A History of Kivas and Ranchers in Lincoln County, Tres Ritos* and *Capitan, New Mexico.*

The most interesting comment from a Lincoln visitor: one insisted the Murphy-Dolan Store (the courthouse in 1881) had been moved from the north side of the road to the south side.

The strangest question I've been asked: Where was the outhouse that Billy the Kid was taken to the day he escaped?

Hard to imagine Smokey Bear, the forest fire mascot, has had so much impact on society. Every day, I look out my front window and see the spot where the real-life bear was found.

A classic Old West book I love is *The Lincoln County War: A Documentary History* by Frederick Nolan. I use it every day.

The latest on my bookshelf? Paul Seydor's *The Authentic Life and Contentious Afterlife of Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid.*

Don't get me started on the reopened murder investigation and attempted pardon of Billy the Kid in the early 2000s.

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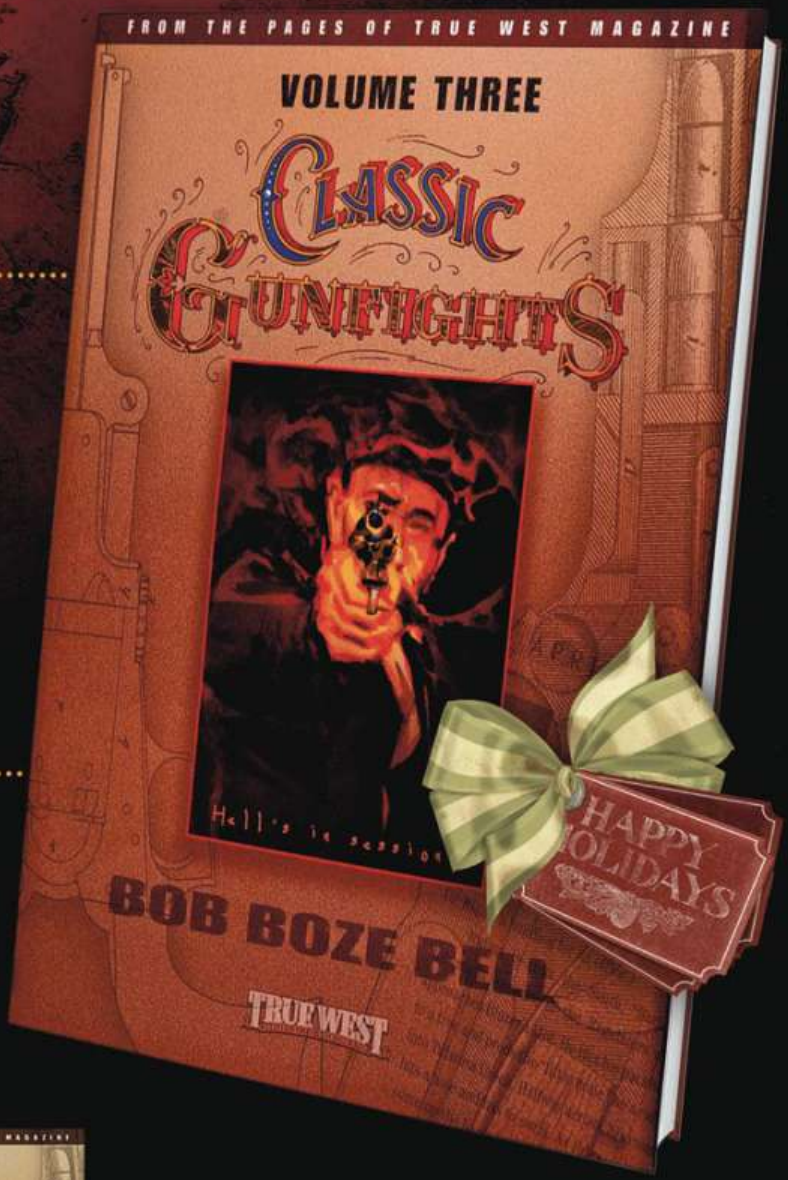

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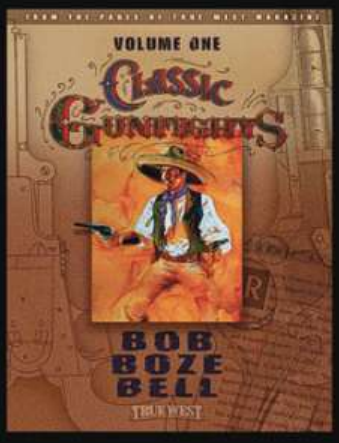

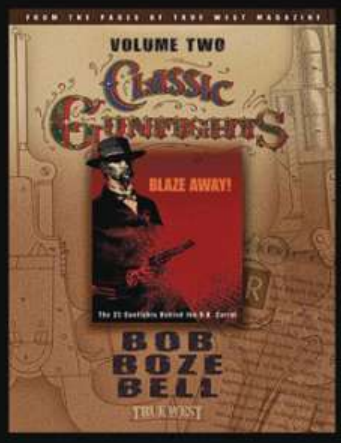

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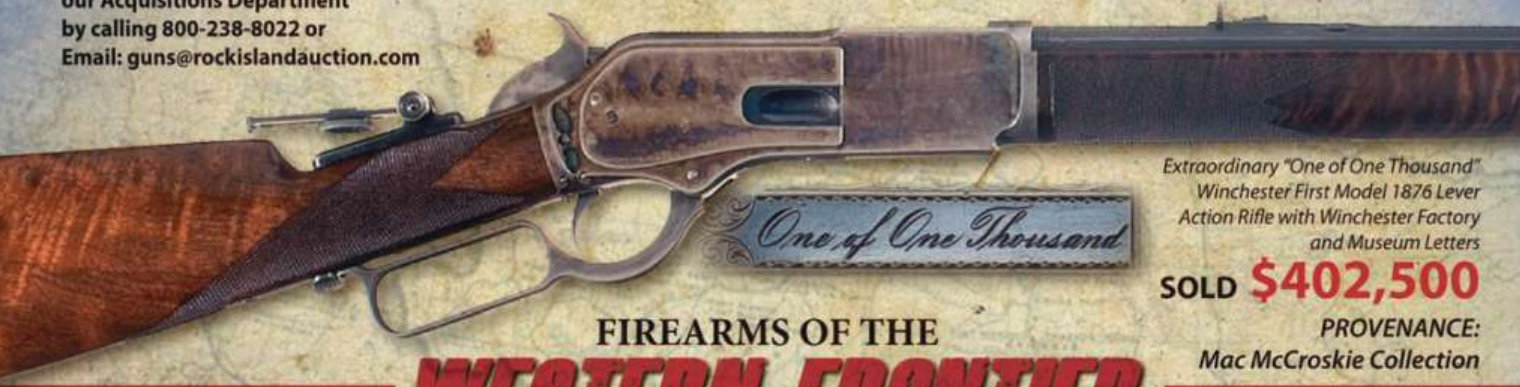

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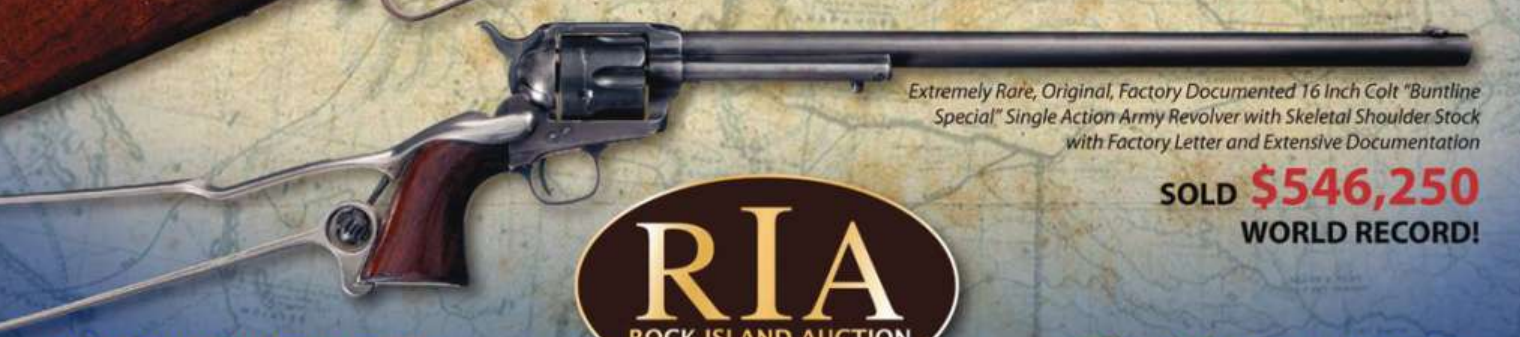

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